Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Further on U.S. 'Attack' on Cargo Ship

Castro Gives Speech

FL0202040090 Havana Domestic Radio and Television Services in Spanish 0042 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Speech by President Fidel Castro Ruz at anti-U.S. demonstration held in the Malecon area, by the former U.S.S. Maine monument, along the Havana sea wall on 1 February—live]

[Text] Comrades, I will try to speak calmly. Yes, because that is the way we must act in light of the events. I say I will speak calmly because we cannot let ourselves be led by anger. We must not let ourselves be led by fury. We must not lose our level-headedness for a single minute. One of the traits of our people and revolution is our level-headedness, which is what drives the United States crazy. This crew showed cool-headedness in the midst of the attack. It is precisely cool-headedness that is necessary to maintain control of our actions. Just imagine, there are still some Yankee things that remain around there. Of course, we do not want our people to be led by anger, although we want our people to experience, from the bottom of their hearts, the great indignation that such repugnant actions deserve. [Someone from audience shouts: "That is why we have you here, Commander, to guide us!" Crowd shouts: "Viva!"]

I think that you must already have a pretty good idea of what occurred. I was thinking that there may be some details missing which are necessary to understand the occurrence in a way.... [changes thought] I know we heard the news and heard about the measures that we took, etc. In some instances.. [changes thought] For many years, ships leased by private companies or enterprise have traveled back and forth to our country. Sometimes they have a Cuban crew. Routine inspections have sometimes been conducted during normal times. The U.S. Coast Guard wanted to inspect the ship on the pretext that it was flying a Panamanian flag, and the Panamanians authorized them to do it. But just note how interesting this is. They said they had authorization from the Panama Defense Forces, which have just been eliminated. The U.S. said it had come to an agreement with the defense forces, and the chief of the defense forces is kidnapped in the United States, in the most arbitrary and illegal manner. The alleged authorization to search ships to see if they are carrying drugs is absolutely contrary to the justification they used to invade Panama and kidnap the chief of the defense forces in an arbitrary and illegal way, and try him in the United States. Even the lawyers are saying he is a prisoner of war, and the United States has no right to try him there.

But note that on those pretexts, they have historically conducted searches of some ships with Panamanian flags that have been leased to private institutions, even when on certain occasions the ships had a Cuban crew. This has occurred during normal times. Just notice at what time this is happening, and under what circumstances. This ship belongs to a private enterprise, but it is not leased to a private enterprise. It is leased to a Cuban enterprise, to an enterprise of the Cuban state. Briefly stated, the ship is leased to Cuba. Cuba is the party responsible for that ship. Furthermore, that ship has an entirely Cuban crew. The event occurred after the monstrous crime of Panama, after a series of provocations against our country. In Panama, they detained our ambassador, surrounded the embassy, and carried out a psychological war. They have carried out all kinds of provocations; this is not the first time. They have been carrying out provocations throughout all these weeks, ever since the cowardly invasion of Panama took place. This action has taken place at a time when they are threatening us. These are new circumstances. This has happened at a time when the defense forces do not exist. Panama does not exist, because Panama is an occupied country. This argument cannot be used as a right to search a ship that has the Panamanian flag. The ship had the Panamanian flag, but it was leased by the Cuban state, it was the Cuban state's responsibility, and it had an entirely Cuban crew.

I repeat, all this is occurring during special times of threat. What legal excuse can they have to commit this shameful action, this felony, when the country under whose name they claim they are acting does not exist; when the forces they made the deal with no longer exist; when the chief that signed that agreement is being held captive in the United States? Furthermore, they knew that the ship had sailed from a Cuban port. They knew the ship had sailed from Moa on 25 January. The ship sailed along the northern coast of Cuba and headed toward the Yucatan channel and Tampico. Searching that ship was unnecessary. It was not only illegal and arbitrary from every viewpoint, but also unnecessary. This must have been what made the crew mad; telling the crew to stop so that they could search and inspect the vessel to check whether there were any drugs aboard was an insult, a despicable act, and a dirty trick that insulted, angered, and hurt the crew.

We can clearly see that the act was a provocation. They wanted to provoke and test the state of mind of the Cuban people. Every time they commit a crime someplace, they think everyone will be frightened. They do not know that such actions only multiply our people's courage, multiply our courage and determination. As our courage and determination multiply, so must our level-headedness. In light of all these things, we must follow a strategy. We know quite well what we must do in the face of every action of the enemy. Naturally, we cannot talk about this in public. We cannot talk in public about our strategy, what we must do, how we must do it, and when we must do it. We will never do what they are probably thinking or expecting. We will never play their game. We must use our courage, but we must use it intelligently. We have said it many times: We must combine intelligence and courage, a strategy that leads to victory.

As I was saying, they probably tried to test us. If they were trying to test us, they came out on the losing end. As the old saying goes: They went for wool and came home shorn. [applause] Later on, I will explain the meaning of this. First, I want to give you more details of what happened, especially about what we did, as well details that will also give you an idea of the conscious, deliberate way in which they acted. They left no margin for error.

We learned late that afternoon, well into the evening hours, that our ship was being harassed. Like one of the crew mentioned earlier, the harassment began on 29 January when a plane flew over them. Later, on 30 January, the ship came. The crew used very simple words to describe what happened; the party representative on the ship even joked about it. They said that the harassment began at 0800 on 30 January. The crew could not reach us directly, so they went through Mexico. They sent reports that they were being harassed and what they had decided to do. The ministry directorate [not further identified] confirmed that their stance was appropriate and that we supported their decision.

That night—well, it was after midnight on 31 January—the Yankees, the U.S. State Department, called our chief of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington. He was advised—they had been constantly issuing ultimatums—that the ship was going to be boarded at 0400. They claimed that they had their suspicions and were going to check to see whether there were drugs on the ship. Considering the threat, and since I did not want to waste any time, I called Comrade Jose Antonio Arbesu, our Interests Section chief, on an open line. Here with me I have a summary of what I told him. Well, I have the text of what I told him, but I will not read everything because I repeated myself, and my orders, several times. I will only read the important parts.

When the U.S. made the ultimatum, I told Arbesu—and I used some nasty words, lots of nasty words have been used since this incident started, words like the ones we used during the war, but out of respect for the people [laughter, applause].... You may not mind, but remember there are many families throughout the country watching television [crowd applauds; indistinct shouting]. Oh, boy. I will refer to them, and you will understand what I am saying. However, out of respect for the families... [changes thought] I know there will be times when we will have to use those words, and no one knows how many times we will have to use them. Well, when things start getting hot, it is best to use the nasty words to convey these things. There is no better word than a nasty word. [applause]

Listen, in the war, in the Sierra Maestra, we had to constantly use nasty words; thus, we became used to them. In that famous ceremony in Ciudad Libertad, I was a bit bothered, and in a low voice, I noted it and said to Antonio: Antonio, Antonio. [laughter] Well, even I had to reeducate myself not to let those words loose on certain public occasions. However, we have always felt respect—and that is right—for the sensitivity of the mothers, fathers, children, everyone. I do not want them to think that I am becoming the number one promoter of those words that are so essential in certain circumstances, and which were extensively used by the crew of the "Hermann."

I said the following to Comrade Abesu, who at midnight received the ultimatum: You must tell these sons of bitches—and I add that I am treating them with decency [laughter]; naturally, they copy all this down, right—I think they said they suspected drugs on the ship. We must call this a cynical and unacceptable argument, and that the crew will allow the ship to be searched. The ship will continue on, and we will allow it to be searched only by Mexican authorities in Mexican waters. They can be within jurisdictional waters or within the 200-mile limit. [addresses unidentified person standing beside him] What are these waters called, the ones closest to the coast? [response not heard] They are jurisdictional waters, or within the 200-mile limit. The crew will not allow the ship to be searched by Mexican authorities. [corrects himself] The crew will only allow itself to be searched by Mexican authorities in Mexican waters. In other words, we are coming up with a solution to a problem that has no solution. There is a solution. Do you think that ship is carrying a shipment? Follow it, and when it reaches Mexican waters, the Mexicans will search it with Cuba's authorization in Mexican waters. If the Mexicans search it, we will give them permission anywhere, because our relations are fraternal, respectful. [applause] However, we have no reason to let these bandits search it.

I will continue with the instructions to the chief of the Interests Section: If they tell you that the ship has a Panamanian flag, you tell them that the flag is Panamanian, but the bastards inside the ship are Cubans. [applause] Tell them the crew will not consent to a search because it is a matter of honor, and because they do not trust the crummy American Navy [as heard] and authorities. They are capable of making up any lie and planting any package on the ship. The crew does not trust them, and because it is a matter of honor, they do not consent to the search. They are responsible for the life of every member of the Cuban crew, and if anything happens to them, they will be responsible. Tell them to note it and write it down so that there will be no misunderstanding.

Once the ship is in Mexican jurisdictional or territorial waters, it will place itself under Mexican jurisdiction, under the Mexican authorities, and agree to a search or to whatever the Mexican authorities wish to do. However, a matter of honor keeps the crew from allowing a Yankee coast guard to search the ship in international waters. It is not only a matter of honor; there is no reason why they should allow the Coast Guard to carry out a search. The crew does not trust them because they are degenerates, immoral, cynics, and we reject their claim that the Cuban Government has been in touch with the ship and has given the crew instructions; that the ship has consulted with the government on its decision, and

that the Cuban Government supports the crew's decision. Call the man who called you, call 10 others if you have to, wake those SOB's up. [applause] I am calling you at this hour—it is almost 0200—so warn them that a matter of honor will not allow the crew to let them search the ship. We will hold the U.S. Government responsible for anything that may happen to the crew. Tell them the ship will place itself under the orders of the Mexican authorities when it reaches Mexican jurisdictional or territorial waters. Tell them that if they wish, they can get in touch with the Mexican authorities. Tell them that the ship has been instructed to place itself under the orders of the Mexican Government for search. Note that there is a clear and easy solution to the problem. If there is a problem, this could be the solution; however, they are all groundless lies. Tell them that we view their excuse of suspicion of drugs as a provocation. A provocation, a cynical excuse, an excuse used by SOB's. [People shout: "Say it!"] You tell them what I have said even if you get chased out of there tomorrow. [laughter, applause] Well, that is what I told him. They got their answer, they got their solution, and they got a clear, logical, fair, and irrefutable explanation. They were also warned that the ship will not consent to be searched. You saw that this decision was made by the crew. They began waging their battle early in the day, and we did not learn about it until hours later.

Right after I finished talking to Comrade Arbesu, I called our ambassador to Mexico to tell him what was going on and to give him instructions as to what he had to do. I told him that I was going to speak slowly, because we had a bad connection. I told him: There is a Panamanian-flagged ship with a Cuban crew transporting cargo from Moa to Tampico. I think it is a small cargo; I think they are carrying a few tons of chromium. It is raw material for study or investigation purposes, something like that. That is what I know the ship is carrying. We did not give the Yankees any explanation as to what the ship is carrying, but we are going to give the Mexicans an explanation and provide them with all the details. [applause] Today at 0800, a Yankee vessel intercepted our ship, I am talking about 0800 on 30 Janaury—I was talking to him early Wednesday morning. They have been bothering the ship—I used another word—and it has been hosed down. It has even been fired upon. The excuse they are using is that the ship may be carrying drugs. The ship has not stopped and has kept on going. The U.S. authorities have called Arbesu—I do not know at what time they called, it must have been after midnight—to say that they will board the ship at 0400. The ship is nearing Tampico. The ship was 200 miles from Tampico, but I think that today, 31 January, at approximately 0800, it will be entering Mexican jurisdictional waters. The ship's speed is 12 knots. We have told the Yankees that the ship's crew is Cuban, and that the crew, as a matter of honor, will not allow the American authorities to search the vessel in international waters. They do not trust the American authorities, because they are capable of doing anything, planting any package. They were told that the ship will only consent to a search by Mexican authorities in Mexican waters, in jurisdictional waters, or anywhere. It can be searched by Mexican authorities in one type of waters, and it can be placed under Mexican authorities for any inspection, questioning, search, or whatever they want. That is what we have told the Yankees. The ship left from Cuba and went to Tampico. The name of the ship is Hermann, and it has a Panamanian flag. It left from Moa. It carried chromium samples that it loaded at the Moa port, which it left at 1000 on 25 January. It was going to load merchandise in Tampico. That was the main objective of the trip. The ship has the following characteristics: length—79.8 meters; width—13 meters; color—gray; displacement—2,300 tons. It is a small ship. It was scheduled to arrive in Tampico at 0900 31 January. The U.S. authorities said that it has a Panamanian flag and they have a right. We told them that the flag was Panamanian, but the bastards on the ship were Cubans so they wouldn't continue to bother us, although we used another word that means the same thing.

I spoke with Arbesu a little while ago. I told him the ship was not going to stop, and that because the Cuban crew would not allow them to search the ship out of a manner of honor, they will have to sink it, and they will have to be responsible for the lives of the crew members and injuries inflicted on them. I spoke with him about 1 hour ago. I told him to wake up everyone there, whoever he had to wake up, and to warn them that the ship will not stop. The U.S. said it was going to be boarded at 0400. The crew had decided to not allow the Yankees to humiliate them, and they are completely right. It is not just a matter of honor, but also a practical matter. We are talking about big sons of bitches, and they can plant any package on the ship. The crew is right to not trust them. However, they will submit themselves to the Mexican authorities. The Veracruz consul will go to Tampico. Furthermore....[changes thought] I had asked Arbesu where the consul was, and he said in Veracruz. I asked him how long it would take him to get to Tampico. He said 3 hours. I asked him to call him right away so that the consul could get there. Furthermore, it is necessary to talk with someone else, a military person, be it the Navy or some Mexican authority; the one that is going to receive the ship. Let him receive the ship in the high seas or wherever he wants; let it be inspected. We will submit it to the Mexican authorities. It is even beneficial for us to have the Mexican authorities inspect the ship at our request. Let them search the ship and see for themselves. What we will not allow is the Yankees to search us. They will have to take it by force. They will have to sink it. I do not know how they will handle it, but the crew is determined to continue. What the Yankees have been told is that we submit ourselves to the Mexican authorities. However, the Mexican authorities must be told that it would even be a pleasure for us to have them inspect the ship to prove its legality and situation.

However, we did not know if the ship was going to make it. We did not know if it had been sunk at 0400. I was

talking to Arbesu about 0300. We did not know if the ship was going to make it. The ship belongs to the Guamar Shipping Company S.A. However, that will be explained later. It is operated by a Cuban enterprise. It is leased by a Cuban enterprise. I felt it was necessary that you know this. Call someone from the Mexican Government. Think about who you can call at this time to handle this situation. Tell the Mexicans that we would truly welcome any inspection.

Then I told him: The ship will keep going. There is no doubt about it. The crew members are determined to go on. You have to realize that they have been waging their battle long before they got in touch with us. [applause]

I said: They were waging their battle for hours before we knew about it. And he said: It would be appropriate for one of you or the consul to go there right away.

I asked him for more details. I even asked him to whom he was going to speak. He told me he was going to trouble the deputy foreign minister. He finally got through and talked with the number three man at the Foreign Ministry. You can imagine how unpleasant it is to have to call an official at that early hour of the morning, even if the problem is serious.

Please note the conditions under which they carried out the attack. They did not have even the most remote justification for the attack. There was a solution to the problem. Please note that according to press agency reports that we received today, the decision was made by the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Defense officials, and members of the U.S. National Security Council, who met three times.

The U.S. President must have been consulted on this decision. He must have been consulted, and the President must have been the one who made the decision, because officials from these three departments do not make decisions of this nature, such as firing at a ship in international waters and trying to sink it. The entire crew could have been killed, which would have been a serious act of aggression, a serious provocation.

Look at the great arrogance and audacity the empire is displaying. We should think about this, because we must draw our own conclusions every day, and because there are some who still have doubts. Some still have not been convinced by what we have said about the kind of world that is being created, the kind of peace awaiting peoples in the Third World. No one will wage the struggle we must wage, nor do we want anyone to do it for us. However, we are saying this so that people understand the magnitude and seriousness of the problems.

What a shameless thing! This ship was carrying some mineral samples, perhaps samples for future exports. Ten tons is a small amount. Perhaps the samples were to be used for lab tests. It was carrying ferrochromium. All this is linked to the development of our economy. In addition, there are 1,500 tons of goods that our country needs there, in Tampico, waiting to be picked up—goods that could be urgently needed here. I do not have the list of the merchandise, but surely those are important goods that will help us confront our problem.

Eleven men.... [changes thought] Twelve were mentioned here, because at the beginning it was said there were 12 men. Later on, it was confirmed that there were 11 men, 11 honest seamen, 11 honest workers. They were not 11 millionaires going on a trip in the Caribbean, but 11 workers sailing in their ship to help solve the country's economic problems, to bring the goods the country needs. All of a sudden, the U.S. Coast Guard wants to humiliate them. They want to board. Who can trust one of the Coast Guard, knowing the outrages they are committing, what liars they are, and how cynical they are. The Coast Guardsmen could have planted anything on the ship. It was not only a question of honor. They reacted out of honor in the first place, but in addition, they had the right to protect themselves from any shamelessness to which imperialism wanted to subject them. These honest workers were peacefully in the middle of international waters, not in U.S. waters, but in the middle of [words indistinct] were suddenly attacked with cannon fire, with machine-gun fire.

They were attacked with weapons of all calibers. There is one thing that has not been said: The attack lasted 1 hour and 45 minutes. Do not think that it lasted 5 or 10 minutes. They were firing at the ship for 1 hour and 45 minutes.

This happened at night. I do not know whether they mean 0435 there or here. It was during the night. It had not yet begun to get light. They began to fire all their weapons at night. Now, imagine the courage of these men. It takes courage to sail the seas at night, because special measures must be taken. A man who falls into the sea could lose his life. It would very hard to pull him out. These men must take precautions.

This happened at dawn, after having been harassed for nearly 24 hours. This is enough time to make anyone who does not have steel nerves nervous. It began at 0800—12, 16, and 20 and ½ hours of war, threats, and shots had passed, and these 11 humble workers were not worried, not nervous. They remained determined, resisted the shots [applause]—all the shots against the bow, steering wheel, engine, crewmen's quarters, and captain's cabin.

They fired at them for 1 hour and 45 minutes, even though these men did not even have a weapon to return the fire. These men sailed on, however, and did not stop. They waged a moral war against the enemy, a verbal war. They responded as they were supposed to respond.

These men faced the empire without a single weapon. Yes, they faced the military, because that Coast Guard cutter represented the powerful Yankee Navy and military.

It was not a ship from a small Caribbean country. It was a ship representing U.S. power, which was being used to

sink a boat, even if it meant sacrificing the lives of crew members. It is really amazing; the conduct of those men was really exceptional. We must imagine ourselves in their shoes: They were far away from their country without any weapons, and they faced the empire! They challenged the orders given by the empire's master, who ordered his men to shoot to kill, with advantage. Maybe he was awakened from his sleep, and maybe he decided to take the call from those who wanted to consult with him on their decision to fire at the boat and sink it.

It was a shameful, cowardly, and disgraceful action, typical of the empire! It was a typical action of the empire, an empire we must know very well. Each day that passes we must know the empire better.

What happened was that our men performed an extraordinary feat, an extraordinary heroic deed. I have not seen anything like this in a movie. I have seen people fighting and doing many things, but the movie of that daybreak, of the men [word indistinct] who were under the Coast Guard's fire for 1 hour and 45 minutes, but did not hesitate, and continued moving although they did not have any more lifejackets or any chance of surviving.... [sentence as heard] They never stopped, they continued their journey, and they were determined to hit the coast or the tower, or to burn there and be consumed by fire before falling in the hands of the imperialists. [applause]

We would have to [words indistinct] how far these men went, and how much they endangered Mexico's own interests, even the ecological and economic consequences for Mexico that could result from that conflict, from that unnecessary and unjustified attack stemming from imperialism's eagerness.

In my judgment, they have accomplished an extraordinary feat with much humility. I imagine many people ask what a hero is Here you have these heroes [applause] who emerged overnight. Humble men of the people. The greater meaning of this feat and heroism is that this is not an individual feat or individual heroism. This is the feat and heroism of the people, because there they were the people. There in that struggle and in such difficult times, they represented the people, they symbolized the people, the dignity of the people, the honor of the people. [applause, shouts]

This confirms what we said—that there are many Camilos [Cienfuegos] among the people—just as we must say there are many heroes, big heroes, numerous heroes. To face this struggle, we need hundreds of heroes, thousands of heroes, tens of thousands of heroes, hundreds of thousands of heroes, millions of heroes. That is what we need. This proves to us—these 11 humble men of the people—that we have millions of heroes here, that we have millions of heroes [repeats himself], because I am sure that is what any of you would do. That is what any man or woman of our Revolutionary Armed Forces, territorial militia troops, of all our people organized for the defense of the country, would do. The message these men sent the imperialists is priceless. [applause] It is priceless.

The Yankees taught our men an unforgettable lesson. But our men did not stop at that. They did not have a single weapon, and yet they resorted to a machete, an ax, a kitchen knife, even a screwdriver!

What are they telling the Yankees? They are telling them: Don't you dare make a mistake. Just imagine what would happen if they had to face the cannons of thousands upon thousands of tanks—just to mention a few—and the barrels of millions of rifles, machine guns, of all sorts of weapons of all calibers. We have the lead here. Let us see if they have as little respect for lead as our men—those crew members—have. [applause]

Let us see. Apparently, they have some respect, because they immediately put on their little vests. They immediately put on their little vests and their little helmets. However, they will be nothing but dust, and not even that. There will be nothing left of the aggressors of our fatherland when they decide to confront the people instead of a group of unarmed men. They certainly take the honors when it comes to confronting unarmed men. However, how about when they have to face the people, armed and prepared with all the weapons we have and with the weapons we are manufacturing so that no one will be left without a grenade? [applause]

If they want to find out what a hero is, there are genuine heroes here among the people. They are simple, modest people. As they say, they would be more afraid of speaking here in front of you than when they confronted the imperialists. [Crowd shouts: "Long live the heroes of the fatherland!" The imperialists are cowards!"]

The imperialist provocation has been the most ridiculous event of the century. I imagine the whole world must be laughing at the Yankees. The Third World countries must be smiling from ear to ear. They were unable to sink the ship. Their maneuver was totally unmasked.

I want to make it very clear that we were the ones who... [changes thought] as opposed to some wire reports that claim the Yankees were the ones who made the request to the Mexican authorities. There are papers to prove this, they must have these conversations recorded because the SOB's [laughter] record everything that is said in this hemisphere. One is not free to just talk. We have to seek other means of communications, but when there is an emergency... [changes thought] and if the ship was going to be attacked at 0400, we had to speak clearly without using any codes. We were the ones who asked the Mexican authorities. Three times we told the ambassador: Ask them to prove it, so we can break the intrigue of the [word indistinct].

And they did so. Our comrades, with whom I spoke for a few minutes, told me that they spent hours carefully searching every corner of the vessel. They did this when

the vessel arrived there in the afternoon. All the Mexican authorities, including immigration, customs, Navy, and narcotics authorities, and even those famous dogs, were there. The dogs sniffed everything to check whether there were drugs on the vessel. There were neither drugs nor urine. [crowd laughs] There were neither drugs nor shit on the ship. [applause] [Crowd shouts: "Fidel for sure! Hit the Yankees hard!"] I am sure that if they had taken those dogs to the U.S. Coast Guard vessel they would have found those three things. [crowd laughs]

They could not do anything. They did not deceive or confuse anybody. They once again proved their shamelessness, cynicism, treachery, and brazenness. They deeply hurt our people's dignity. They have increased our people's anger and strength, as will happen with every one of their actions until zero hour comes, until the true problem arises. And it could arise. At this rate, at the rate that imperialist arrogance is marching, a true problem could arise. I say that this incident was the first skirmish. I told our comrades that this was the first skirmish.

It is true that on one occasion, another group of sailors also behaved in an exemplary manner during an incident in the Gulf of (Saboaquil) when a ship was leaving Valparaiso. Although it was attacked with cannon fire, the vessel did not stop. We remember that. That incident took place under different circumstances and at a different time. That incident involved a Latin American country, and not the most powerful empire on earth. What the Cubans did on that occasion made us all feel very proud. But the circumstances surrounding this incident are so special, so different, and so symbolic that I do not think there could be a superior incident to this one. We have the privilege of being with our comrades here. I sent for them so they could be here with us. They spent many hours out there. They faced a lot of challenges. I asked them to come here to receive the homage of the Cuban people. They could all be dead right now after what the Yankees did.

The ship could have been sunk and they could have been killed. But the Yankees were not able to do it. They did not dare complete their crime since they did not want things to get more complicated in Mexican territorial waters. They should be ashamed of themselves, and this should teach them a lesson. The attitude of our comrades was very important at this moment of great importance—important to us and to the world. It was the time to show what it is to be a revolutionary; [applause] to show what it is to be a communist; [applause] to be a communist [repeats himself].

Several of the comrades on the ship are party members, others youth members, and two are not registered in the party. This confirms what I have stated: These men may not be registered in the Young Communist Union, but they are communists. [applause] A communist party cannot work without a communist working class. A communist party cannot do anything without people who are communist. [applause] That is why I want to urge all those here today: If the party needs a recommendation for these two unregistered crew members, I would like all of us here to recommend them for party membership. [applause] I would like to propose that we recommend all of them—not only the two unregistered crew members—as members of our glorious Communist Party, [applause] because they are communists. They have acted as first-rate communists. We felt pride when we listened to the Communist Party secretary on that ship talk to us here, and heard him express himself with such simplicity. They confronted Yankee arrogance, confronted Yankee arrogance [repeats himself], [applause] they confronted Yankee arrogance [repeats himself] with the scorn of communists. [Crowd chants: "Long live Cuba!"]

That is the way our party has to be. [Crowd chants: "We will win!"] And that is the way each of our youth militants has to be. And that is the way they are, and we are! [applause] One swallow does not make summer. Such is the spirit of our communist youths, of our workers. We are going to propose to the Council of State that these 11 men be granted the highest award for courage. [applause] They have waged a first skirmish, but in the moral aspect, this represents a gigantic battle and a gigantic victory.

I remember once reading in ancient history about something that happened in Rome. I do not know if it is true or false, but it is recorded in history. It occurred at the time the Romans did not yet have an empire, but they were noted for their courage. They were surrounded, and it is said that those who were surrounding that city captured two prisoners and took them to the man leading the siege on the city. The leader threatened to torture them, to burn them. The prisoners then put their hands over the fire to show their contempt for the threat, for the pain. [applause] Whether this story is true or false, it has a deep meaning. Yesterday morning I was recalling that story as the comrades were keeping me informed of the development of events since the moment the ship was attacked.

If they think we are afraid of their threats, the heroic example of these humble workers is the most eloquent answer our people can give the imperialists. [applause] By mere chance, we have met here in this small plaza, or park, or whatever you want to call it, not very far from the den of the imperialists, so they can see and hear us.

Here we have what was the symbol of Yankee dominion. Here is the famous monument to the Maine. I would not say that the seamen who died in the Maine do not deserve a monument, if some kind soul had built the monument, or if some honest person had built the monument. They were victims of the crimes of the imperialists, inasmuch as the historical evidence shows that, shows that... [repeats himself and then changes thought] It was very coincidental that all of the officers were at a party. When the imperialists were about to wage their first imperialist war, the humble seamen of that battleship were atrociously sacrificed.

All the evidence suggests that the imperialists themselves blew up the ship that carried no officers, because, oh, what a chance, they were attending a party. The excuse of war, the excuse of intervention in Cuba, and the occupation of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and other Spanish possessions.

This is why I say we could talk about victims, because there were victims, but victims of imperialism. That monument was erected in their honor out of pure hypocrisy. That monument later became the symbol of imperialist domination over our fatherland.

However, the revolution triumphed one day. Dozens of years have passed, but we triumphed [crowd shouts indistinct word] and since 1878, I mean since 1868—I said 1878 first because that was the year when that war ended, and it ended in a glorious way thanks to Baragua. Dozens of years have passed, dozens of years have passed since the war of 1895. They had nearly crushed our people, but someone said here, one of the comrades who preceded me, that people knew how to rise from the ashes and continue the struggle [applause], our struggle today, which can be compared with the struggle of 1868, 1895, the Moncada Barracks, the Granma, and our volunteer missions.

And we are not ashes today. [pounds on podium] We are not ashes, and we are as capable as ever of defending ourselves, with weapons to defend ourselves, with ideas to defend ourselves, with combatants to defend ourselves [applause], and with the ability to sooner or later turn into powder and ashes—with that behavior, example, and resoluteness—those who commit crimes, the historic and indescribable crime of attacking our fatherland.

If there is something that we can be sure of, it is that the rapacious eagle, which symbolizes the empire, will never again settle on those columns that became a monument of what was, or sooner or later will be, [applause] what the empire was in our country, and what will sooner or later happen to its plan to enslave the world.

Socialism or death! [Crowd shouts: "Death!" along with Castro] Fatherland or death, we will win! [Crowd shouts: "We will win!" along with Castro] [applause]

Alarcon Says Incident Planned

FL0102160890 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1340 GMT 1 Feb 90

["Last minute" telephone interview with Ricardo Alarcon, ambassador to the United Nations in New York, by Jorge Ibarra on the "Haciendo Radio" program—live]

[Text] [Ibarra] Good morning, Comrade Ambassador.

[Alarcon] Good morning.

[Ibarra] We would like to know if you can provide us with additional information on the latest reports we have received here.

[Alarcon] Of course, it will be my pleasure.

[Ibarra] What information have you received, Comrade Ambassador?

[Alarcon] Early yesterday morning, some diplomats and journalists accredited here at the United Nations said that the U.S. media had reported practically nothing on the incident, at least until last night. We saw some reports on the newscasts that are prepared for the Spanish-speaking people here. The reports were very distorted, very biased. They were primarily based on the version reported by the U.S. Coast Guard. As I said, the reports were distorted and biased. The incident was presented as a questionable matter, a mystery. There was a question about what the ship's cargo was. The question remained as to what would happen next if the Mexican Government, if Mexican authorities, inspected the cargo.

The United States knew prior to the attack that this ship had been traveling for a few days from Moa to Tampico. Before the attack—a criminal action against our ship—we had let the United States know that the Cuban Government was willing to have Mexican authorities inspect the ship's cargo once it arrived at its destiny, Mexican territory, if the authorities felt it was necessary. It was not that we had the slightest doubt about the cargo. We in no way conceded to the U.S. attempts. We wanted to immediately and totally eliminate any enemy campaign, any distortions, and we thought that the best way to do this was to have the authorities in Mexico, the destination country, verify the content of that ship—a procedure that is completely normal—and thus flatly disprove the U.S. allegations. In addition, if they did not want to go through this process, this inspection, they would have to notify Mexican authorities.

The United States knew all this before they began to shoot at our ship, before the provocative and aggressive action began. Nevertheless, they told the U.S. people last night that no one knew what the ship was carrying. They said that no one knew if the ship would be inspected in Mexico, among other things. I tell you this so that you get an idea of how the people of this so-called paradise of liberty, information, and so forth still have the truth completely covered up, even after it has been made public.

[Ibarra] Comrade Ambassador, then you say the action was premeditated?

[Alarcon] I do not have the slightest doubt; I do not have the slightest doubt [repeats himself] that it was premeditated. That is my answer. I am convinced of this. Before the physical attack against the ship occurred, the ship was provoked, attacked for several days. Attempts were made against the ship. It was pursued by the U.S. Coast Guard crew who tried to board it. Of course, the ship reported this to Cuban authorities and they in turn reported it to the Cuban Foreign Ministry, who informed the U.S. Interests Section in Havana about the incident. Meanwhile, our comrades in Washington notified the

U.S. State Department. We maintained communications. We continued to monitor the situation.

We clearly informed them that our comrades would not permit this provocation. They would not allow themselves to be boarded by the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter. In an effort to be constructive—after all, he who has nothing to hide can be the first, as we were—we wanted to also demonstrate our willingness to be inspected by authorities who are completely clean, who are completely impartial and objective, as the Mexicans are.

This boat makes this trip on a regular basis. It carries Cuban products to Mexico and Mexican products to Cuba, an activity which I would say has existed for centuries. We have ties with the Gulf ports in Mexico. This helps to explain the affinity between the two peoples, the two nations, which can be seen in music, in everything. The ties go back a long way.

The thing that only existed in the past and that has to be abolished, completely eliminated, is piracy. It is absolutely inadmissible to allow it to persist. The activities of the privateers and pirate ships, such as the U.S. Coast Guard ships, should not be allowed. They should not be allowed to assault peaceful, civilian ships on the high seas. This type of thing has not occurred in the Caribbean for centuries. The Caribbean has been historically known, in part, for these kinds of activities, these past atrocities, which our people are once again rising against.

[Ibarra] Comrade Ricardo Alarcon, did the spokesman [corrects himself], the government of Mr. Bush clarify the matter?

[Alarcon] The things that I have heard about have been characterized by hypocrisy and lack the most elemental respect for the truth. I have never before seen such things as those done by Mr. Bush. Last night, Mr. Bush presented the U.S. Congress with the State of the Union message.

Several U.S. Coast Guard spokesmen have remarked on the incident, but what they have demonstrated is that they are just plain bandits, because no one knows better than they do what really happened. They know that there was no reason to assume that the cargo on that ship was of a questionable nature.

I am absolutely convinced of this and the best proof that all this was deliberately premeditated, a provocation calculated step by step, is the fact that today, after the incident ended when the ship arrived in Tampico—our comrades fortunately arrived safe and sound in that country—they still continue to say that they had reasons to be suspicious about the cargo, adding that the other party involved was not willing to clarify this matter.

They know, they know perfectly well, that the possibility I mentioned existed. Now that the ship is in Mexico, the inspectors, Mexican Customs, local authorities, and U.S. authorities can have access to information if they want it. If the U.S. [corrects himself] if the Mexicans, who own Mexico, refuse to cooperate, then that is a problem between Mexico and the United States, but they could verify that nothing shady, nothing dirty is involved. If you tell a U.S. citizen that there was a possibility that the ship would be inspected, do you really think that a reasonable U.S. citizen, an average U.S. citizen, would understand why a U.S. ship would shoot missiles, attack a boat under those circumstances? Is this the attitude that a narcotics-trafficking boat, a criminal boat would take? Obviously, it isn't.

This information continues to be covered up because whoever knows it is aware that the action was premeditated. It was a provocative act. Even last night, I repeat, they were giving the same story.

[Ibarra] This is not the only time that there has been a lack of information. The same thing happened with Grenada and with Panama.

[Alarcon] Of course. There is a lack of information, and there is deception. What is being reported is not the truth. What is being reported misleads people. It keeps people from knowing what really happened.

A very serious thing has happened and they know it. They have committed a new gross, criminal, highly provocative action on the high seas against a peaceful ship dedicated to trade. This is a crime of piracy.

[Ibarra] Comrade Ambassador, for your information, the residents of Havana will gather this afternoon at 1800 in Havana in front of the old Maine monument to demonstrate their repudiation to the cowardly imperialist aggression. How will our country denounce the action to the United Nations?

[Alarcon] Of course, we will make sure that our government's instructions are fulfilled. What we are doing regarding this incident is clarifying a few things for diplomats and journalists. We are telling them how the events happened. We have seen great concern, reaction, and many spontaneous gestures. Many people came and asked us what happened before we had a chance to approach them and inform them about the events. This is interesting, because despite the sketchy and biased U.S. media reports which the diplomats and New York residents have access to here, some of them came and asked us what happened. The people know how the United States lies. The people know how they try to deceive the other peoples of the world with the empire's propaganda, and they know that Cuba always tells the truth and that it has enough morale and sufficient laws to confront the events that occurred.

I hope that our people's expressions of protest—we cannot be present there—are so loud that they destroy the idea of making the Caribbean return to the years of piracy.

[Ibarra] We thank you, Comrade Cuban Ambassador Alarcon for your kindness in speaking to the Radio

Rebelde audience and to our "Haciendo Radio" people. You will be with us in spirit this afternoon at 1800 in the capital.

[Alarcon] Of course. Thank you very much.

Government To Demand Sanctions

PA0102214590 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2021 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Tampico, Mexico, 1 Feb (DPA)—Cuba will demand that sanctions be imposed against the United States for yesterday's attack by a U.S. Coast Guard vessel against the "Hermann" in international waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Cuban Ambassador to Mexico Jose Fernandez de Cossio announced today.

The diplomat today confirmed before the port captain in Tampico—470 km northeast of Mexico City—the charges against U.S. Coast Guard vessel No 1320, the "Chicoteague," for attacking the "Hermann." The "Hermann" is a Panamanian-flagged ship rented by a Cuban company, with a crew of 11 Cuban seamen.

According to the ship's captain, Diego Sanchez Serrano, the attack took place 26 nautical miles east-southeast of Tampico. There are 49 machinegun bullet holes in the ship, but none of the crewmembers was hurt.

Escorted by two Mexican Navy boats, the "Hermann" docked yesterday in Tampico, where it was inspected. According to the official NOTIMEX news agency, the narcotics police did not find any drugs or weapons aboard the cargo vessel, which was carrying 10 tons of chrome destined for the Mexico Shipping Agency.

Fernandez de Cossio said that his government will file a formal protest before the State Department and the United Nations, and will also "demand that sanctions be imposed on the United States for this aggression, which cannot go unpunished."

He added that the attack is not only a violation of freedom of navigation and peaceful trade between Cuba and Mexico, but also "an act of U.S. piracy and terrorism against the Latin American peoples."

Envoy to Mexico Comments

PA0102034590 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0214 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Mexican Government has vigorously denied that the attack on a Cuban cargo ship by a U.S. Coast Guard vessel occurred in Mexican territorial waters. The government statement was issued by the Mexican Foreign Secretariat.

In addition, the Mexican Navy Secretariat reported that early this morning the Mexican Navy received a report on the incident between the Panamanian-flagged merchant vessel "Hermann" and the U.S. Coast Guard vessel Chincoteague.

According to information provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, it is suspected that the vessel "Hermann" is involved in drug trafficking, which is the reason the captain of the "Hermann" was asked to authorize an inspection of the ship.

After the captain of the vessel refused to authorize the inspection, the U.S. authorities requested authorization from the Panamanian Government, which it granted. The captain of the vessel, however, refused, after which the Coast Guard vessel used its weapons to stop it. The shooting took place over 350 km off the coast of the Mexican state of Tamaulipas.

We are here in Section 1 of the Port of Tampico, where the Panamanian-flagged vessel "Hermann" has docked. The vessel's crew members are Cubans. According to the most recent information provided by the vessel's captain, the ship was attacked approximately 86 miles from the Port of Tampico by a U.S. Coast Guard vessel with registration No. 1320.

Early in the morning, the Port of Tampico began listening to radio transmissions from the "Hermann" reporting that it had been attacked by a U.S. ship. The Mexican port authorities, the Mexican Highway Patrol, the Technical Judicial Police, and even Mexican narcotics officials confirmed that on its port side, the vessel has approximately 60 machine-gun bullet holes. The caliber of the bullets has not yet been determined.

Before the vessel entered the Mexican port of Tampico, members of the Mexican Navy's 1st Naval Zone inspected the vessel to determine whether it was carrying drugs, which was the argument used by the U.S. Navy to try to stop the ship in international waters.

The inspection continues at this time. There are various Security Department officials here. The captain of the vessel has not made specific statements to the press thus far, but Cuban Ambassador to Mexico Jose Fernandez de Cossio held an impromptu news conference right here in the port area a while ago, stating that the "Hermann" was harassed and pursued by the U.S. Coast Guard vessel for a long time before the ship reached Mexican territorial waters.

[Begin recording] [Fernandez] The vessel was carrying an absolutely legitimate cargo and was coming to pick up cargo that was also legitimate. The United States is trying to impose new international practices that deny freedom of navigation. That is unacceptable.

[Reporter] When did the pursuit of the ship begin?

[Fernandez] It started yesterday.

[Reporter] At approximately what time? The reports we obtained from the U.S. Coast Guard state that the pursuit began at 0415 this morning.

[Fernandez] No, the pursuit began yesterday. It began at noon yesterday.

[Reporter] Can we obtain the captain's version?

[Fernandez] Yes, later on. I have not talked to him yet. There is some information that I do not have right now that I will obtain once I speak with the captain. [end recording]

Ambassador Comments Further

FL0102145790 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1319 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Interview with Jose Fernandez de Cossio, ambassador to Mexico, by Julio Dominguez of Radio Havana Cuba on 1 February—recorded]

[Text] On 31 January, an American warship attacked a Cuban merchant ship in Mexican waters only 10 miles from the coast when the ship was heading for the port of Tampico. It was carrying 10 tons of chromium ore. The American crew fired upon and attempted to board our cargo ship. We have here on the telephone Mr Jose Fernandez de Cossio, the Cuban ambassador to Mexico.

[Dominguez] Fernandez de Cossio, I would like you to give me your opinion on the situation. Exactly how did events occur?

[Fernandez] This constitutes an open violation of the norms governing free international navigation. Beginning the day before yesterday [31 January] in the morning, 0800 the day before yesterday, the Cuban ship was pursued by the U.S. Coast Guard ship. It was harassed by the U.S. ship, which was No 1320. Later it fired on our merchant ship, hitting it several times in the aft part, toward the left aft side of the ship, with a different caliber shot. It was fortunate, a real miracle, that no one was wounded, because this vandalistic act of piracy occurred from a total lack of responsibility toward human life and an awareness of what they were doing.

[Dominguez] Ambassador, what was the reaction of the Cuban crew in the face of these events?

[Fernandez] The Cuban crew showed, at all times, a firmness, a very clear determination about what they were doing. They were aware that they were defending the right of Cuba, a sovereign country, to practice free navigation, and the right of Cuba to exercise its trade and to defend this right against the arrogance, aggressiveness, and lack of respect for the law shown by the United States.

[Dominguez] This Cuban ship had 10 tons of chromium ore in its hold, is that right?

[Fernandez] That is right. The ship was following a route between Cuba and the port of Tampico to deliver the ore to Mexico, and in turn pick up general cargo for Cuba in the port of Tampico. It was a normal trade ship, and the State Department was notified of this through diplomatic channels a few hours before our ship was fired upon. That is, the U.S. Coast Guard ship knew perfectly well the nature of the ship they were attacking.

[Dominguez] Is it true that they told you: We have orders from the U.S. Government to search the ship?

[Fernandez] Yes, the serious thing about all this is that the U.S. Government has appointed itself international policeman with rights that international law does not grant it, to act as a judge that decides if a ship is suspicious or not, if it is carrying cargo or not, or simply to act without consulting anyone. The U.S. Government is trying to establish this as a system, a practice, as something that should be accepted by the international community. With the conduct of its valiant sailors, Cuba has shown that such a policy cannot be accepted, that it must be resisted.

[Dominguez] Friends, we have been talking to Jose Fernandez de Cossio, the Cuban ambassador to Mexico, concerning the firing on and attempt to board a Cuban cargo ship by a U.S. Coast Guard ship in international waters in the Gulf of Mexico, in Mexican territorial waters.

Crewmen To Arrive 1 Feb

FL0102175190 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Interview with Lazaro Matias, secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, by Jorge Ibarra during the "Haciendo Radio" program—live]

[Text] [Ibarra] We would like some additional information about the health of our comrades from the cargo ship.

[Matias] Well, the 11 comrades who make up the crew of the "Hermann" cargo ship, which was vilely attacked early yesterday morning, are all in perfect health and are maintaining a high combative spirit. These are sailors who are in perfect condition and who have asked us to inform the Cuban people that they are prepared to undertake any other mission that is assigned to them in their area of work.

[Ibarra] Lazaro, where are these comrades staying now?

[Matias] Our 11 comrades are on board the ship, which is already docked at the port of Tampico.

[Ibarra] Based on the information supplied to us by our comrades here, they will be departing today for Havana and will arrive here this afternoon. Could you confirm their schedule?

[Matias] A plane is scheduled to arrive here tomorrow at 1015 Cuban time to pick up the entire crew. It is scheduled to leave Tampico at 1400 Cuban time, and to arrive in Havana at 1615.

[Ibarra] That is going to happen today, right?

[Matias] Today.

[Ibarra] Have you had any contact with our comrade crew members?

[Matias] Yes, of course. I went to meet the ship with the comrade ambassador and the consul in Veracruz. We were there when the ship docked in port. We visited the ship. Everyone is well. The ship looked like it had more than 150 bullet holes, many of them caused by high-caliber weapons, that is 50-mm caliber weapons.

[Ibarra] Could you tell us some of the things experienced by the crew members?

[Matias] Well, the crew members said that beginning early yesterday morning—at 0800—the Coast Guard vessel mentioned earlier began to follow them. Despite being followed, the Cuban crew continued to perform their duties. Later, the U.S. vessel moved closer and began to harass them with water hoses—a method they usually use to repress students. Then, they began to shout through loudspeakers, ordering the Cuban crew to stop so they could board. Our crew responded firmly, stating that they would not submit to the demand, that theirs was a regular merchant ship heading for the port of Tampico, and that they would not change their course. Our comrades stated that they would not stop their ship for boarding [words indistinct] to submit to another country—the United States—that the action constituted an act of aggression against a legal ship, and that there was no reason to perpetrate the incident. And so they went on, and the U.S. ship even attempted to lean on the Cuban ship, but the Cuban captain outmaneuvered them and then entered Mexican waters. There, the Cuban ship was fired upon continuously with high-caliber cannon fire for more than a few hours.

[Ibarra] How did the Mexican officials react?

[Matias] When the Cuban ship entered Mexican waters, the Mexican officials responded very well and very politely, giving all the facilities [words indistinct] because we were willing to have the Mexican authorities to check, to verify, and to announce that the ship was on a normal trip and that it was carrying merchandise in its hold, as was confirmed later.

[Ibarra] Cuba gave its authorization for the inspection, right?

[Matias] I cannot hear you.

[Ibarra] Cuba gave its authorization for this, right?

[Matias] Yes. Cuba authorized the Mexican authorities to inspect the ship and to announce their findings, as was widely reported by the national radio stations.

[Ibarra] What can you tell us about what the Mexican press is saying today about all this?

[Matias] Well, it is still a little early here. We have not yet seen the papers. What we can tell you is that all television and radio networks have covered the case and have lauded the attitude of the Cuban crew members, who were able to defend their sovereignty.

Commentary on Baker's Remarks

FL0102195390 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In recent days, Cuba has charged the United States with heating things up in the region. Recent events have fully substantiated these charges. The U.S. Government has no valid justification for having attacked, in international waters, the Panamanian-registered merchant ship "Hermann," which has been leased to the Cuban Caribbean Navigation Enterprise.

The lives of the 11 Cuban crewmen were in serious danger. This is a serious situation. The seriousness of all this has acquired even greater significance because of the remarks made yesterday by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. With unparallelled cynicism, Baker said this was neither an attack nor an act of provocation, but a legal activity aimed at enforcing the law. What law is Baker talking about? No international law empowers the United States to order attacks on merchant ships in international waters. This is an act of banditry, piracy, and terrorism, which is in violation of the right to free navigation.

This action stemmed from the heightened arrogance of the empire which, driven by drunkenness and euphoria, is now acting as though it is the master of the world. It is ultimately a clear threat to the sovereignty of countries of the region and a return—if one can speak of returning—to the dirtiest forms of the gunboat policy.

The U.S. Coast Guard attempted to justify its vandalistic action by arguing that the merchant ship was suspected of carrying drugs. This argument is both brazen and vile. No suspicion can justify the harassment of a freighter for 20 hours and the deliberate machine-gunning of it.

The captain of the Mexican port of Tampico himself flatly disproved this argument. There, the ship was carefully inspected and the highest-ranking port authority, Aristides Palma, stated that there was no drug or any related product on board the ship. The anti-Cuban slander was once again defeated. The United States knew that the ship was not carrying drugs, that it was truly full of the courage and combativeness of our people, a people who are determined to die 1,000 times fighting rather than be humiliated by the arrogance of the empire.

Commentator Terms U.S. Policy 'Dangerous'

FL0102143090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Commentary by Roberto Agudo from the the "Revista de la Manana" program]

[Text] The attitude of the current U.S. Administration has rapidly and dangerously shifted from conservative to reactionary, from reactionary to neofascist, and from neofascist to fascist. Defying every logical principle and

basic reasoning, it is now engaged in increasing the internationalization of state terrorism. Proof of this is the latest feat by a U.S. Coast Guard vessel which, while being far out of its area of operations, first began to chase a small merchant ship and then attempted to intimidate the crew to allow their ship to be boarded. Finally, showing repugnant cruelty, the U.S. ship fired all of its weapons on the merchant ship.

Only by taking into account the basest instincts, which are in line with the current wave of fascism prevailing in the U.S., could one explain this vulgar act of piracy. Because of the misgovernment that exists in the United States, this country seems determined to order either the machinegunning of a merchant ship or the destruction of resources and lives in small countries.

Faithful to his dangerous policy, Mr. George Bush has resurrected the Mr. Hyde in Dr. Jekyll; that is, a monster of international piracy, a diabolical creature that could turn against his master. By following primitive political ideas, Mr. Bush is following the steps of his fossilized ancestors Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, two U.S. presidents who sent pirates, Marines, and soldiers to Central America and the Caribbean at least 15 times between 1902 and 1920. Mr. Bush is also following the more recent steps of Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan, who, along with their predecessors, ordered 46 invasions of countries located south of the Rio Grande.

Yet, Mr. Bush is wrong. Nicaragua is not like Grenada; let alone is Cuba Panama, which last December suffered its sixth U.S. invasion in this century. The irrational triumphalism it has displayed in recent times could have unpredictable consequences for the United States.

The thing now is that official and unofficial spokesmen have stated that they were mistaken, that they were confused, that they mistook the chromium for drugs. This poor administration is always mistaken. This is why they have been helping counterrevolutionary forces in Afghanistan and are the murderers of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola. They were also mistaken when they invaded Grenada and when they murdered 2,000 Panamanians. They are always confused. That is why they grow marijuana instead of corn in the United States.

Our brave sailors of the merchant ship "Hermann"—among whom are four comrades who carried out internationalist missions, one who came from the ranks of the rebel army, four youth militants, and two party members— have time and again demonstrated that courage, reason, and ideals are more powerful than weapons. Mr. Bush, your pirates are perhaps still trying to understand how our comrades responded to the gunshots with cries such as: Thirty-one years of revolution, and we are still going! And with a powerful: Fatherland or death. Think it over, Mr. Bush. Don't make a mistake.

Official on Panama Action to UN Commission

FL0202135090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Speaking at the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban vice minister of foreign relations, has said that our country denounces the U.S. revival of the big stick and gunboat policies, which it used to attack Panama for the seventh time. Roa Kouri stressed that it is Cuba's opinion that the Human Rights Commission cannot remain silent in the face of the monstrous aggression and the arguments used by the United States to justify it. He added that this would clearly change the meaning of human rights, and clear principles, such as the illegal use or the threat of using force in international relations, would be destroyed. Roa Kouri stated that the commission has the responsibility to evaluate the consequences of the Panama invasion and the military occupation of that country, since both negate the Panamanians' basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Official Visits Rome; Comments on TV Marti

FL0102155790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, reiterated in Rome that our country will reply appropriately to the hostile television broadcasts planned by the United States. In a ceremony in front of the monument to Jose Marti in the Parque del Sur in the Italian capital, Montane stressed that Cuba [words indistinct] will not sit idly by and admit a violation of its sovereignty; it will respond appropriately to the aggression if it is carried out.

Statement on Troop Withdrawal From Angola

FL0102153090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces in Havana; date not given]

[Text] In compliance with the bipartisan agreements signed in New York on 22 December 1988 between Cuba and Angola, only 1,581 internationalist combatants were withdrawn from the People's Republic of Angola [RPA] in January out of a planned 2,266 combatants. A total of 31,138 combatants have returned to this country. The plan was not fulfilled in January because, as our people were informed, the Cuban and Angolan Governments decided to temporarily suspend the departure of Cuban military personnel until Cuba received a satisfactory explanation of the actions carried out by UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and is persuaded that the troop reductions in the RPA will not be taken advantage of [words indistinct] advised by the U.S. Government, to attack Cuban military personnel and sabotage the agreements among Angola, Cuba, and South Africa.

Issued by the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces

Barbados

Opposition Party Calls for General Elections

FL0102184990 Bridgetown CANA in English 1640 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 1, CANA— In a statement on its first anniversary, the opposition National Democratic Party (NDP) on Thursday repeated allegations of economic mismanagement by the government and said the country was headed toward the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The NDP said the island was now embroiled in a "government-inflicted economic crisis," which would inevitably lead to the IMF. "It is better to go early than to wait," he added.

"I therefore, call upon the prime minister Lloyd Erskine Standiford to call general elections, before he is forced to call in the IMF. He owes his country that much," Haynes, a former finance minister to Standiford, told reporters.

Haynes said the ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP) had mismanaged the economy to the extent that the island's foreign reserves had been depleted, and the island was not being told the true state of the economy.

"This is a totally unacceptable state of affairs. Nothing the central bank can do to slow down private sector activity can serve as a substitute for fiscal prudence. Without fiscal prudence Barbados is headed down the ruinous IMF path-....The central bank has announced that housing and employment must take a back seat, as government goes on its merry way, overtaxing the people and squandering the resources of the country," Haynes said.

Haynes formed the NDP with three other rebel DLP members following a disagreement over taxation policies.

Haiti

Avril Gives News Conference at Palace 31 Jan

FL0102200090 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1839 GMT 31 Jan 90

[News conference by Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince—live]

[Text] [Avril] I must begin by welcoming everyone here to the National Palace this afternoon for a tete-a-tete with Haitian society, the Haitian nation, through the press. The press is the indispensable link between the government, the Haitian people, and the international world. That is why, after what the nation has just been through, after the measures that we were obliged to take to create a a serene atmosphere in Haiti, I made it a point to invite the press here this afternoon to answer the many questions that have certainly come up over the past few days. We will therefore not waste time with a long introduction. I am first of all going to set the agenda. We will have a moderator: the director of information of the Ministry of Information, Mr Gabriel Saint-Louis. If any questions are asked in a foreign language, I will answer the question in French and the director of information of National Haitian Television will kindly translate for me.

Thus, without further delay, let us go on to the questions. I am at your service.

I have already given the floor to that gentleman. The lady can be next.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what are the...

[Avril, interrupting] I have already given that gentleman the floor, madame. You will be next.

The chief of protocol has just reminded me that I am the slave of time. This news conference has been scheduled to last 1 hour. I just want to let you know. Go ahead, sir.

[Reporter] General, the entire Haitian nation is now in a state of traumatizing shock that is the result of the situation brought about by the series of measures recently taken by the military government of which you are president. Thus, both as members of the press and simple citizens, we expect of you, general, clear explanations regarding: first, the reasons that (?could have justified) the urgency and need to apply such measures; second, the precise reasons your government rescinded, in less than 10 days, decrees regarding decisions that were to have lasted 30 days; and finally, what measures (?have you envisioned) to possibly redress the situation to restore a certain amount of confidence to all sectors of the national life? Thank you.

[Moderator] Could you please identify yourself?

[Reporter] Gary Moise Dubrosse, of the monthly magazine (LA COQUELUCHE).

[Avril] You are Mr. Altidor? Gary? Dubrosse. I will go on to the answer.

First of all, I think that regarding the questions to be asked, it would be better to ask a single question. The news conference is 1-hour long. People can always ask other questions later. I would not like to have to hold back [disserter]. I would prefer to participate in an interview, a news conference.

You say the Haitian nation has been traumatized by the measures taken. You speak of the recall of the measures and about dispositions in the future.

First of all, I would say that when one speaks of the Haitian nation, one must envision several strata of the Haitian society. We have noticed that the Haitian

people, as a whole, have not been traumatized by these measures. That is what I have noticed. That is to say, throughout these 10 days during which the measures of the state of siege were being applied, the masses went about their business. The masses even participated in the precarnival parades in the streets. Every night, they spent their nights—whether in Petionville, in La Saline, or on the Champ de Mars .... [changes thought] I toured the city myself, and always saw that everything was going fine among the people. Thus, I do not think the term—traumatizing to the Haitian people—is accurate.

We are talking about the intellectuals. We are talking about the political class. Now, that is something else again! They are better able to understand what we have done.

The reasons the government took such emergency measures: We have seen—have been seeing, I should say—for more than 4 years, [corrects himself] for almost 4 years now, for it will be soon be 4 years—a situation in the national life that I would term intolerable, a situation to which the Haitian people are not accustomed. People die in the streets. The government's authority is crumbling. The nation's institutions are losing their strength. Now, on 17 September, the government I head, [rephrases] the government I have the honor of heading came to power.

From the beginning, we thought we were going to put an end to this state of ruin that is menacing our society. We defined our objectives in clear terms. We called on the political class—on everybody—to engage in fruitful dialogue to get the nation out of the bad situation in which it found itself. Instead, we lived, through the somber hours of what was termed insecurity. We witnessed the unfurling of passions. We witnessed the shutting down of our factories, several factories, following those ill-timed demonstrations that very often have nothing whatsoever to do with any wage demands on the part of the workers. We witnessed those general strikes almost monthly, and sometimes even weekly. All these things could only lead our country to ruin and disaster!

Despite all this, we managed to get through a year that I have called a year of trials. I have called it a year of trials because throughout this year, the same old things kept coming up: attempts to take power by force, despite the efforts made to set up an electoral council for elections; attempts to destabilize the government; and many more things.

Recently, we reached a point where, after our trip to China—a trip we made confidently, because we always leave things to the will of the Haitian people...[changes thought] We did not take any emergency measures before leaving! We did not put the army on a war footing before leaving! In fact, certain people even say that we did not even inform the Haitian people that we were leaving—which we did, of course, at the last minute.

All this is to tell you that we are not clinging to power, sticking to power like glue! We took this trip, going very far away. We were also confident, however, that the Haitian people did not want disorder, that the Haitian people would wait for us. And that is indeed what happened.

But how did what we call the political class act while the chief of state was absent? Having arrived in Taipei, messages started arriving saying that news conferences were being held, that statements were being made over television, even that the Armed Forces general staff had been approached and asked to intervene and take over the government.

I am talking to the nation's political class. I am talking to the nation's journalists and the journalists of the international press. One does not have to reflect very deeply to realize that only in Haiti could such a thing happen. I cannot imagine the president of some other country going on a trip and having the political class get it into its head to contact the high command of that country's Armed Forces to ask those officers to mutiny against established authority. This is sanctioned by our penal code. But in Haiti, people do not pay any attention to the country's laws, do not pay attention to the country's penal code. We have always analyzed matters according to the juncture. Because in Haiti, even when someone has in his possession, at home, a war weapon, when he is arrested, there are always pressures to release the person, without his even having appeared in court.

Thus, this entire situation culminated in assassinations—assassinations that, according to police reports, are being committed to cause public opinion to rise up against the current government! In addition to the assassinations, vile and base maneuvers attempted to sway public opinion against the current government! Assassinations of peaceable people are committed while it is insinuated that these acts are being committed by the government! A president who goes on a trip and spends 10 days and some 23 or 24 hours by plane away from his country is not a president who would be willing to resort to bloodshed to stay in power! We have always disapproved of this! We have always refused to do such a thing.

Now, the scandalous murder of Ti Will, the journalist, was (?to have led) public opinion against whatever the government undertook. Even police officers became timid. How can one conduct an investigation when it is being said out in the streets that it is the government that committed the crime?

How can this matter of insecurity be solved?

We were reflecting on these matters and analyzing the latest reports on certain meetings that took place, when Colonel Neptune was killed.

It is our responsibility to save human life in this country. We had information in our hands leading us to believe, and anticipate, that there could be a slaughter in Port-au-Prince.

Before going any further, to make you understand [pauses] the situation we were in on the evening of 19 January, I should tell you what Col Neptune meant to the Presidential Guard. Col Neptune was an officer who came from the peasantry, from the rural section of Haut Cap Rouge, above Jacmel.

He came to Port-au-Prince. He became an enlisted man in the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH]. He became a member of the presidential guard. This officer worked his way up through the ranks of the military hierarchy, from a private to the rank of lieutenant colonel. This officer's entire career was spent in the presidential guard, with its enlisted men and officers. His men loved him. Well, one can thus understand the men's rage upon learning that Col Neptune, his wife, and his maid had been assassinated.

People cannot imagine what this means, within a troop—this feeling that by striking out at Col Neptune, it was like someone was striking at all of them.

Now, the command (?had to)...[break in reception]...in my capacity as commander in chief of the FADH and current president of the military government. I did not act alone. First of all, I had to call in the commander of the presidential guard and girdle [ceinturer] the National Palace, and then summon the general staff to make some decisions. All right.

We have seen—if there are people who study history or follow the news—how, on several occasions, in other cases, under other circumstances, the death of a colonel has never been taken lightly, especially when the colonels are part of war troops, of infantry units. I do not think one need go too far back in history to see to what I am referring!

But no, under us, it had to be something else! No, we were not going to allow men to administer their own justice. We had to assume our responsibilities and show the members of the FADH that we were capable of taking care of their case. And that is why, after a meeting of the Council of Ministers, we decided to make that serious, emergency, decision that caused the country to have to live under martial law for 10 days. I will say, however, for the members of the international press present here today...[changes thought] For the translation...? [translator barely audible in the background] ...You will do it afterward? I did not want to speak on the subject at such length, but it happens.

I was saying, for the international press present here today: When international public opinion hears about a state of siege, it gets it into its head that there is war in Haiti, that there are military tribunals sitting and executing people, that there are slaughters. No! All of you present here today must have seen the masses having fun in the streets during the state of seige, must have seen that soldiers were not fanned out all over the city during the state of siege!

We took these emergency measures to allow the police to quickly disarm people, block the escalation of assassinations; to prevent troops from attempting to carry out justice themselves; and to also permit a solution to the problems caused by constitutional constraints.

By constitutional constraints, I mean....[changes thought] One should be made aware of the fact that under the Constitution in effect, after 1800, even with a warrant from the judiciary, the police do not have the right to arrest anyone, nor to carry out any kind of search whatsoever. It is said that we have a very progressive Constitution. Indeed, it is a Constitution that goes further than that of the United States of America, France, Belgium, and all the other countries I know. In no country in the world does one prevent police forces from, when duly armed with a warrant from the judiciary, arresting people between 1800 and 0600. We live in a country in which criminals can, as of 1800, don jackets and ties and go out dancing, because constitutionally speaking, to arrest them would be to violate the Constitution. That is the truth.

Thus, this constitutional article had to be shelved.

Also, the state of siege was not decreed to (?bring out) the military courts or to take exaggerated action that would mutilate a people! Nor did the people take it that way, either! There was, however, no other way that...[rephrases] That article had to be shelved, as did the other articles mentioned, like the article regarding the 48 hours.

We live in a poor country, and the Constitution obliges the police to complete all police investigations within 48 hours. Haitians, who are familiar with Haiti's economic problems, know very well that the Criminal Investigations Department has perhaps three unfortunates, policemen, who type—for we have no computers [preceding word in English] there... [changes thought] They have to type the reports on investigations, the interrogations, and so forth on old Olivetti typewriters. And, even when the police have five, six, seven, eight cases to deal with, they are asked to deal with all of them within 48 hours so that a case can be sent to the judiciary. And that is why once the case is before the judiciary, any old lawyer can find fault with it, and the arrested person, who perhaps really did commit the crime, is released.

Well, (?in view of all this), during these 10 days, to allow the police to conduct their investigations and to combat the insecurity which persists because of such things, we took emergency measures to enable the police to take action. And these measures yielded results. We will come back to this matter in a little while.

Do you want to translate, or shall I continue? I am finishing with him.

[Translator] (?I will translate) after they have asked the question. I will translate for them if they ask the question in English.

[Avril] Oh, I see. For them. All right. What dispositions will be taken to redress the situation and restore confidence to diverse sectors of the national life]? Well, the rescindment of these measures.

The measures have been rescinded because we did obtain satisfactory results. It would take too long to list everything we were able to collect. I mean, people cannot imagine what it means when in an organized society that has a police force, a civilized society, there are weapons in circulation that are unknown to the forces in charge of such things.

During these 10 days, we were able to confiscate 4 antitank grenades that were circulating in the streets; 1 explosive grenade; 27 hand grenades; 18 grenades for rifles; 639 7.62 caliber war shells; 50-mm shells, 60 of them; 30-mm shells, 114 of them—I assure you that these were not the kinds of shells hunters use—2,500 9.5-mm shells for a UZI submachine gun; 200 (?5.56-mm) shells for FAL and Galil rifles; belts for a 50-caliber machine gun; belts for a (?7.62)-caliber machine gun; 38-caliber shells; and so forth.

There were weapons seized: FAL assault rifles—the press has already reported all this—magnum revolvers, UZI submachineguns, and so forth, that we were able to recover. I think that Haitian parents are happy with the work we have done.... [changes thought] to say nothing of other equipment. I do not know what its purpose was. Perhaps, it was to wage guerrilla warfare. There were 12 cartridge belts—cartridge belts are used to store bullets—as well as military maps of southern Haiti. There were five military maps [words indistinct] together that showed almost the entire peninsula of the Grande Anse and a part of Haiti's Department of the South. I do not know why anybody would want to have a military map.

Commando boots. I do not know....[changes thought] Perhaps they were for hunting. [continues reading list of articles] A belt made of heavy-duty fabric; communications equipment; a camera; a compass, to serve as a guide at night; military field clothing; a pistol holster; a cartridge belt made of heavy-duty fabric; cartridge belts, and so forth—even handcuffs, a police uniform—all of this was found at people's houses.

All right. So what I have just described is the problem we are facing. There is also the problem concerning when the the government wants to implement the measures to solve these problems—there is much disagreement. Of course, I can understand these protests, for it is only now that I am listing the reasons and for what was done.

How am I going to reestablish confidence? We are going to continue (?along the same path) [nous allons continuer, c'est le meme train]. We are going to intensify dialogue, because many demands, many recriminations, were made because of a lack of information. We are going to redouble, reinvigorate, the dialogue with the political sectors. I am perhaps, however, going to change my tactics. I am now going to open a dialogue with the press now because I have the impression that...[changes thought] I do not know if I will be able to correct what happened, but I have the impression that there has been a sort of failure at the level of dialogue. Perhaps I will have better luck with the press. I am a man of dialogue and I shall remain one.

Thus, I think I have answered your question. I will now give someone else a chance to speak. That lady was next.

[Reporter] Do the police reports indicate who killed the colonel and the journalist?

[Avril] No, we do not have any police report on the results of the investigations. Rather, investigations are being conducted. The investigations continue. I know that they have been able to establish certain things, but I have no official report. I cannot tell you. I know, however, that they are continuing the investigation and as they manage to progressively determine things, people will be sent before an examining magistrate for the continuation of the investigation. Furthermore, it is not going to bee too long before this happens, because the Constitution is back in effect. They are going to have to provide the results of the investigations within 48 hours.

[Moderator] Go ahead. You, at the back. Yes.

[Alain Rodex, French Overseas Television, RFO] You speak of carnival activities in the streets, but you do not discuss the arrests, beatings, and expulsions. Do you think the lifting of the state of siege suffices to reestablish the confidence of the great powers, for example, France or the United States?

[Avril] [Words indistinct] hear? I did not hear him.

[Moderator] Repeat your question please.

[Rodex repeats question verbatim]

[Avril] He concluded with...?

[Rodex] You talk about carnival activities in the streets....

[Avril, interrupting] Yes, I did hear that part.

[Rodex repeats question]

[Avril] I do not know if everyone heard the question. I should perhaps repeat the question. Can the simple lifting of the state of siege suffice to guarantee confidence....

[Moderator] Suffice to reestablish the confidence of the United States and France.

[Avril] ...suffice to reestablish the confidence of the United States and France. Is that it?

[Rodex] (?General), there is also the first part of the question.

[Avril, repeating] There is also the problem....

[Reporter] The first part of the question...

[Rodex] Yes, there was a first part of the question....

[Avril, interrupting] We took measures. The police forces were given instructions. We acknowledge that there were certain slip-ups. First of all, people who were not supposed to have been arrested were arrested. And I also know that there was brutality against some of the people arrested.

In this regard, the FADH high command, (?through) the general staff headed by interim commander in chief, General Abraham, has already taken steps to open an investigation. Orders have been issued (?to open) an investigation to determine responsibilities, (?as part of) the FADH General Staff's action to prevent this from happening again, as well as to punish the guilty parties.

Regarding the resumption of confidence on the part of the United States and France, I know that Haiti lives within the concert of nations. We take action to solve Haitian problems according to what [les donnees] we have that will permit us to broach these problems with the greatest possible success and the least possible amount of damage.

We think we did what was right to solve the problem, to obtain peace—as you can see now—social serenity in the country; and allow us to continue our work and also further the electoral process. [sentence as heard]

Our partners expressed their opinions, their concerns. We understand these concerns. We understand the positions they took. We are certain, however, that they did not have in hand all the knowledge necessary to understand the Haitian problems. Of course, we ourselves know we must take into account everybody's remarks—the remarks of all our friends, whether they are from abroad or live in Haiti. We have learned of the remarks that were made; we have analyzed them. In addition, wisdom itself recommends that one always takes into account the advice of friends. Thus, our situation is at this level and not another, for we are a sovereign country. You are in the country of Jean-Jacques Dessalines.

[Moderator] Clarens Renois of Radio Metropole.

[Renois] You have noted with satisfaction that the population refused to respond to calls for a strike which intended to overthrow your government. You interpreted this, Mr President, as approval on the part of the population for your policy, for your way of governing. On the walls of Port-au-Prince, everyone can see slogans reading "Long live Avril for 5 years." We are in an election period. After the measures that were taken, potential candidates, as well as foreign countries, no longer have any confidence. But would you accept...

[Avril, interrupting] Oh, your questions are long. You should make them a bit shorter.

[Renois] I will shorten it for you quickly, Mr President.

[Avril] It is not you who answers the questions. It is I who....

[Renois] I will shorten it for you quickly. At the international airport....

[Avril, interrupting] Ask the question and I will answer it.

[Renois] I will ask the question again. At the international airport of Port-au-Prince, you mentioned the fact that the people had not responded to the calls to strike to overthrow your government.

[Avril] Everybody knows that. Everybody knows that. [repeats] Ask the question.

[Renois] Now, Mr President, can you accept a plebiscite? People want you in power for 5 years? The slogans are on the walls in Port-au-Prince.

[Avril] Do I accept...?

[Renois] Would you accept a plebiscite? A popular mandate for 5 years, as the slogans on the walls in town are demanding?

[Avril] All right. To this question...[changes thought] I believe the people, the citizens, have a right to express themselves. This is my conviction.

Because you are a journalist, you must surely have noticed that, whereas today they are writing "Avril for 5 years," a few months earlier, they were writing "Down with Avril." They even wrote, once—in Miragone, Petit Goave, and those places around there—"Long live contraband. Down with Avril." At a certain time, in the central plateau, they were writing "Down with Avril." So now they are writing "Long live Avril" and "Avril for 5 years."

What I am interested in is the work of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP]. The CEP was instituted for the purpose of holding elections. The CEP has shown that it is doing its job. Since 17 September, we have gone through all the stages necessary for holding elections in Haiti. On 6 November, we proposed our plan to create the electoral institution to the leaders of political parties so we could get their opinions. The time they took up [le retard qu'ils ont pris] prevented us from creating this institution until 13 February—no, 31 March. On 13 February we held the famous forum that everybody talks about—an initiative that came from us.

So, we had the forum, and we created an electoral council exactly as recommended—with not even a comma altered—by the 24 political groups and parties that participated in the forum.

At the time, I thought all the political leaders were going to support this institution. That is what I expected. However, much to the contrary, I saw all the forces mobilize against the CEP. I saw that the CEP could not get any work done. I saw that no one was supporting

them. However, it is always General Avril who does not want elections! On 31 March, Gen Avril appointed the members of the council, still according to the recommendations of the political parties and socioprofessional organizations that had participated in the forum. The CEP was appointed on 31 March, but no one noted this. On 1 April, there was the coup d'etat—or rather, a coup attempt, for there is a saying that goes like this: Man proposes, but it is God who disposes. Thus, there was a coup attempt.

During that entire period—which cost us certain FADH units—four members of the CEP were ordered to rescind their oaths under a hail of bullets. After this crisis was solved, as of 13 April, the CEP members were officially installed—in the midst of a crisis! [sentence as heard] And Haitians know fully well that if Gen Avril had wanted to take power, the 2 April events sufficed for us to say something other than that we were continuing to manage the transition, had we so desired. That was not our goal, however. Sovereignty regarding this matter lies in the Haitian people.

Thus, the CEP continued to work and put out its calendar on 23 September. See how well I remember the dates? That is because I am interested in these things.

Well, on the 25th, people were already criticizing. The 23d was a Saturday, and on Monday 25 September, there was already criticism; however, not constructive criticism. Rather, these voices were from men who were just messing around, as one would say in Creole.

A new, revised, electoral calendar. The CEP showed its good faith. It reviewed the criticism and came up with a new calendar.

However, I do not see why people are always trying to make others believe that it is Gen Avril who is going to hold elections when a law has been put out in accordance with the forum's recommendations stating clearly that it is up to the CEP to hold elections. Thus, I think that on this point, we are clear. We are not going to fall into...[leaves sentence unfinished]

[Moderator] Mr [name indistinct] from Radio Lumiere. Radio Lumiere.

[Radio Lumiere reporter] Before asking my question, I would just like to ask the president to give me time to ask it, because I am not going to ask a "what" type of question.

Mr. Prosper Avril, without going into the previous history of the relations between the Haitian and Panamanian Governments, the former Panamanian ambassador, Mr Vargas, was declared persona non grata close to the end of last year. He was reproached for having meddled in the nation's internal affairs.

On the very day he arrived here in Haiti, the U.S. ambassador made a statement at the airport that startled the population of Haiti: A loaded donkey doesn't stop. [Haitian Creole proverb] A few days after presenting his credentials, he made another statement in Cite Soleil concerning elections: Okra cannot be eaten with a single finger. [Haitian Creole proverb]

It is no secret to anyone that the president had a very stormy meeting with the U.S. ambassador—this is no secret to anyone—and yet, the U.S. ambassador was not declared persona non grata. Does Haiti employ two sets of standards to its diplomatic relations with other friendly countries?

[Avril] First of all, let's take the case of the Panamanian ambassador. That's what you asked about, right? What happened is... [changes thought] You speak of meddling. One must weigh one's terms and analyze their contents. The Panamanian ambassador went to the Department of Justice and embraced criminals—or rather, common prisoners—as if to support them or to carry out what even looked like an attempt to intimidate the Haitian judiciary. This is what I call meddling in a country's internal affairs. This is uncommon. This was the first time we saw such a thing. Now, you also speak to me of the American ambassador.

You think that saying "loaded donkeys don't stop" constitutes meddling [chuckles] in the nation's internal affairs. Well, come on, you've got to be kidding.

Listen, first of all, I heard this term over the radio. However, you must remember that when I heard it, there was not yet any U.S. ambassador in Haiti. An ambassador becomes an ambassador when he presents his credentials. Therefore, whatever is or was said before the presentation of credentials does not concern the government. So much for the matter of loaded donkeys not stopping, to which I attach no importance at all.

Third, people are talking about a stormy session—a stormy meeting, right? It never happened as far as I know. As you know, people say, as well as write, a lot of things. There has never been any such meeting. I did receive the ambassador of the United States of America, who came, with all the customary courtesy, to talk about matters concerning Haitian-American relations. The U.S. ambassador is a career diplomat, who is well aware of the value accorded the internal sovereignty of nations to which ambassadors are accredited. Therefore, to talk about all these things—the possibility of declaring someone persona non grata, and so forth—I can't see on what basis such a serious decision could be reached. Therefore, absolutely not!

[Moderator] [Words indistinct] Mr. Oriol?

[Oriol, in Creole] I will speak in our national tongue, which is Creole, so that all Haitians can understand what I am going to talk about here, and the importance of what I am going to say.

I would like you to tell me how you feel about the way certain foreign countries act toward Haiti because of events that occur here at home, within the framework of our national sovereignty. For example, during the rioting

in Caracas from 29 February to 2 March 1989, the Venezuelan Social Democrat Carlos Andres Perez, according to the foreign press made victims of 3,000 people. There were close to 1,000 wounded and 300 left handicapped. They also killed 350 children. Meanwhile, they themselves claimed there were 276 people hurt. [figures as heard]

This same Carlos Perez called for intervention in Haiti, the country that allowed Bolivar to give Venezuela independence. It is these same people who want to get Haiti out of the total chaos which they claim it is in.

Right after this wonderful democratic act, he received—if I remember correctly—$300 million in aid from big foreign countries.

I would like you to tell this gathering what you think about such behavior toward Haiti, which is a small country? [applause]

[Avril, in Creole] [laughs] I thank Attorney Oriol for that question. I hear the ethnologist talking in that question.

We too have noticed all the distinctions made between the way they treat other countries and the way they treat the black men of Haiti. You say that after those riots, they gave them $300 million. $412 million in aid followed, because in those big countries you must have money to keep the masses quiet. However, they know that we ourselves are accustomed to poverty. Our people stay quiet despite extreme poverty.

We do follow those situations. However we do not want to lose our dignity. We have always continued to behave in a manner that shows our heroes of independence, who made sacrifices, did not make them in vain.

And so, here we are. When things happen here, only we know what kind of red-hot coals we are sitting on. It is we who know the kind of conditions under which our people live. We will always make whatever decision has to be made to keep ourselves alive, even if we cannot yet give our people happiness.

However, it is said that we cannot cut ourselves off totally from the outside world. Thus, since we cannot isolate ourselves from the outside, we are obliged, when we fail to receive understanding, to be understanding ourselves. It is up to us to understand that, with all our national pride, we will keep our people in line with the tradition left us by our great forefathers.

We can understand their attitude, for there is one set of measures for Haiti and another for other countries. We can see the tremendous amount of worldwide fuss that the measures that we took to bring our country into balance created.

And as I said a while ago, we also listened to all the suggestions made and advice given. We listen to them, but when we follow advice, we always follow it within the line of the Haitian people's tradition and national sovereignty.

Thus, this behavior should lead Haitians to reflect a bit more. As for me, when I implement measures that I know to be good for my country, I do not think about what is going to happen later—to think about whether or not they are going to cut off aid, or cut off assistance, or do this, that, or the other. I make decisions that I know are good for the Haitian people.

However, despite everything, I continue to harbor the hope that once we have explained the reasons for our measures, those countries which are traditionally friends of ours—which are supposed to be friends of ours—those countries, such as the one you just named, which have statues of one of the founders of our independence, will one day finally understand that the Haitians are 186 years old, and that they are not about to follow anyone's dictates.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] of the paper (?LE MONDE). Mr President, [words indistinct] both inside and outside Haiti, do you think it would be advisable for international observers, such as those currently in Nicaragua—which does not fool with its national sovereignty—to supervise the electoral process in Haiti?

[Avril, in Creole] Several questions arise in relation to the supervision of the electoral process. [Switches to French] It is not up to me—as chief of state, who wants elections that are honest, democratic, and all that—to rebel against anything like that. The Haitian people, however, are the only lord and master on this kind of issue—to bring foreign elements into the national territory. The CEP, which is working to hold elections, must surely have taken polls to see how such an initiative would be perceived by the Haitian people, because to be effective, all initiatives must be approved by the Haitian people. Therefore, now it will be up to the CEP to conduct an investigation to see how this issue would be perceived.

[HAITI-OBSERVATEUR reporter Rodrigue] My question is not very different from many of the questions that have been asked by my Haitian and foreign colleagues.

After the decreeing of the state of siege, many political leaders were arrested, beaten, and expelled from Haiti. In the answer you gave, you said it was a matter of slip-ups. In your opinion, President Avril, do these slip-ups merit reparations? And how could such reparations be made?

Second, the matter of winning the confidence of the United States and France was mentioned. However, I would like to come back to Haiti, and ask: With elections nearing, what will you do to win the confidence of the Haitian opposition? Thank you.

[Avril] Well, first of all, we have come back to the problem, [indistinct aside] we are back to the problem of the leaders who were forced to travel. Is that right?

We have said that the state of siege has been lifted. The measures that were taken while certain articles of the

Constitution were temporarily not in effect have now been rescinded. This means we have returned to the status quo ante, and the leaders can come and participate in elections.

Now, regarding people having been beaten, I somehow have the impression that people think that slip-ups occur only in Haiti, that only in Haiti can a police force commit brutality, even going against orders received. The minister of interior said his interview: The president personally issued orders aimed at preventing this from happening. Well, it did happen.

I just said that the Army high command has ordered an investigation to determine responsibilities. These orders were issued some 3 or 4 days ago.

In an attempt to enlighten the people, I should perhaps show you that it is not only in Haiti that such things happen. I am going to read you LE MONDE, and a recent edition to boot: the 28 January 1990 and 29 January 1990 editions of LE MONDE.

For hitting a man who was drunk... [changes thought] Well, I won't tell you where [chuckles] he hit the man, for it is too... [changes thought] A policeman from Reims was indicted on a charge of... [changes thought] This policeman, whose identity was not revealed, had violently struck a man in his thirties in the lower part of the abdomen with his knee, a man who had been detained in the commissariat's holding cell on 19 January, after merely being arrested behind the wheel of his car. And again, from the 30 January edition of LE MONDE: (?Warder) Garcia and Police Sergeant Schmidt have been given suspended prison sentences for having caused the death of 22-year-old student (Malik Huskin).

Christophe, who admitted having dealt this student a few blows with a club, was given a 2-year suspended sentence, and the ruling will not go on his record.

See how things are done in civilized countries? [laughter]

Former (?police sergeant) Jean Schmidt, now retired, who denied having participated in the violence, got a 5-year suspended sentence. He does not have to go to prison.

Thus, this kind of slip-up can occur. And, because we are working toward democracy, it is up to all of us to get together to succeed in disciplining our police forces, in making them increasingly more professional. I have just read from LE MONDE to you. This student was killed in Paris! But no one is going to incriminate the president of France, or ask him that kind of question. No. There are mayors, the police, and a group of other people to whom you can address such questions.

In this connection, I would nevertheless like to point out to you that, regarding the protection of human rights, on 10 December 1988, during a speech I made at the Foreign Ministry within—I believe—the framework of the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I said that for the authority leading a country, to desire respect for human rights is not enough to ensure that such respect really becomes a fact, becomes real. It is a matter of education. We must educate our soldiers, our officers, our rural police agents, our public prosecutors—in short, everyone involved in the protection of human rights in this country.

The United Nations heard about this speech. They received the message and told me they were going to take it into consideration. Thus, just last week I received a pamphlet prepared by the United Nations, permitting me to teach my agents what human rights are. It is written in Creole—the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [preceding title in Creole]. This is what the United Nations has sent me. They are going to send me 2,000 or 3,000 copies to distribute to all our rural police agents—of which there 562—all the military police districts, and all members (?of the Armed Forces) interested in the police, to teach them how to protect human rights. This is an example of the kind of initiatives that we ourselves take.

We are not going to engage in demagogy and say that everything is fine in this country. On this same occasion, we have undertaken a reform of the judiciary, which is coming along well. We have also undertaken a prison reform, and the United Nations has already sent us three missions to work with us to implement the transfer of the penitentiary system from under the FADH...[changes thought] This is an anomaly, an anomaly that we ourselves did not create. Before the U.S. occupation, the FADH did not handle prisoners. Well, we must take this matter away from the FADH and assign it to the Ministry of Justice, where it belongs.

These are the kind of initiatives we undertake. And this is the kind of response we received from an international organization that truly wants to help—because, to correct things, it is not enough to go to prisons and say that prisoners are badly cared for and mistreated. Rather, we must be helped to correct the problem.

[Avril switches to Creole] But I have already answered that! I have already said it! To reestablish confidence, [switches to French], is for everyone to return, and respect the law. We ourselves will maintain a dialogue with all of them, so that [switches to Creole] as we progress, everyone is involved. This is everyone's work, not just the government's work.

[PANORAMA newspaper reporter] Mr. President, what guarantees do we have that the perpetrators of the 29 November election day massacre will not be participating in the coming elections?

[Avril] Again, this is a matter that does not depend on the executive. The executive's job is to create a propitious climate for elections. The elections are organized in a fully independent manner by the CEP. Therefore, that question falls within the competence of the CEP.

[Moderator] Voice of America. Jean Max Blanc. Go ahead.

[Blanc] Mr. President, (?in one of your) televised speeches, you said, and I quote: "For elections to be proper, the Haitian people must have jobs and food to eat." Under the election calendar, presidential elections are scheduled for October of 1990. Have you attained the objective for which you were aiming? If yes, how so? And if not, will you have time to make this project a concrete reality before your departure?

[Avril] I said that for the elections to be fully successful, the people had to be working. I stand by this. How can one think that people who are hungry, who cannot even clothe themselves, can go out and participate properly in elections? Therefore, I stand by what I said. These people need jobs.

(?Regarding) those who wish to help us achieve a democratic process, well, I will be able to determine the degree of sincerity in what they wish to offer us only when we have seen that they understand the government's need to put the people to work.

I had even spoken of teaching the people to read the name of the candidate they wanted to choose. That is what I said, and I stand by it. Otherwise, you will have an election masquerade. You will not have honest, fair, authentic elections.

I said clearly in my speech in Beijing [city as heard] that it was hoped that all this could be done. I said clearly: It is hoped that all this occurs.

[Blanc] [Question indistinct].

[Avril] As for that, only God knows if we will have time, or the means, to do it. I do say, however, that we hope so. This means that if it is not done, you will see what these elections—which in my opinion, will not be honest—are going to give you. I know what the practice is in our provinces. I know there are what we call (?area) bosses [les chefs de boukman], who come with soup to make our poor peasants go and vote.

[Moderator] Mr Michaud from Radio Canada.

[Michaud] On Radio Canada yesterday, there was a Haitian exile, who is a member of what is (?commonly) called the opposition, who said he was uneasy. Even though you have lifted the state of siege, he feels uneasy about returning to Haiti. He would like other guarantees.

We have also learned that other opposition parties currently in Haiti are also asking for additional guarantees of security so that they may participate in the electoral process.

Are you ready to guarantee them all possible (?latitude) and all possible security so that there can be a good electoral campaign?

[Unidentified speaker repeats question for Avril]

[Avril] I state it formally: They will have all the necessary guarantees to return to the country and participate in elections. I would, however, also like to say that I hope that...[rephrases] That, if it was a lesson, the lesson has been learned. This means that we are now entering a rule of law. This is our penal code. It says clearly that (?attacks) to overthrow the government are to be punished by imprisonment. This means it is a crime included in and punished under the penal code. Thus, we do not expect to have leaders or political figures come and, instead of pitting their ideas or platforms against those of other leaders, think they can contact members of the Armed Forces to ask them to participate in a coup d'etat. At that point, they will no longer be playing the democratic game. However, if men come here, go out among the people, express their ideas to the people, seek to have the greatest possible number of followers...[changes thought] Because I have been all over Haiti and have not seen regional offices of political groups established in Haiti. I do not know if other people have seen any, but I myself, wherever I have been, have never seen even the tiniest little place marked: political office of such and such, perhaps because the leaders [preceding word in English] have not yet gone to those areas. However, I think that...[changes thought] When I saw coalitions form in Haiti, I was the only person to say: Bravo! When I saw the first coalition formed, I said: Bravo! I saw a second coalition form and said bravo again. I thought that the following week I would be seeing see these two coalitions square off against each other, as we saw happen in 1956-1957—at least people who are more or less my age, or older.

I expected to see them square off against each other. Back then, all the intellectuals (who were there went) to the radio stations to hear people talking, expressing ideas. I have not yet, to this day, seen that kind of thing here.

That's what I was expecting. But no! Instead of pitting their ideas against one another, instead of showing students, the university youth, the Haitian people that we are better than the others, these groups turn their guns on the government. That, then, is the problem. It is not on the government, but rather against one another, that they should be turning their guns.

I am not saying that I do not accept criticism. It is thanks to criticism that the government will be able to correct its mistakes. However, this criticism should be constructive. It should not consist of attacks on the dignity of the chief of state, public officials, etcetera, as we saw recently. Two other questions?

[Moderator] Go ahead. Derouleaux?

[Derouleaux] How did you, personally, take the resignation of your ambassador to Washington, Mr. Francois Benoit, whom I thought was your classmate at the military academy? And how do you feel about his statement that your presence is no longer amenable to the holding free elections in Haiti? Thank you.

[Avril] Ambassador Francois Benoit was appointed by the government after 17 September to represent his

country in the United States of America. He is not a classmate, as you stated. He was, in fact, one of my instructors at the military academy. We have always seen in him... [changes thought] You know what kind of bond exists between teachers and students. Thus, we have always had a great deal of respect for him, and we believed he could be the representative of the Republic of Haiti to the United States.

How do I view his resignation? I perceive it the way I have always feared.... [changes thought] Certain political parties are always proposing a government of coalition. Well, I perceive his resignation from that angle.

You must remember that Mr Benoit was the vice president of a political party. Thus, while fulfilling his mission as representative of the Haitian Government in a foreign country, he had political aims—hence the duality in his behavior that culminated in his resignation.

Coalition governments have never come to anything. We have the proof in history. And when things get tough, [rephrases] often the representatives of political parties in a government drop that government when things get tough.

Mr. Benoit is an adult and can make any decision he wishes at any time. We ourselves are not going to attribute too great an importance to that decision. Maybe he intends to run for president, or otherwise lead his political life. However, we ourselves have learned whatever there is to be learned in this lesson—that is, we are more than ever convinced that a coalition government is not what this country needs.

[Moderator] The final question will be asked by Mr. Levanti of AFP.

[Levanti] Mr President, I would like to ask you a question about the press, particularly the independent press, part of which is unfortunately not here here this afternoon.

There have been recent attacks and threats against the independent press, particularly by the official press, as well as by a sector of the broadcast media that sometimes sing the praises of the fallen regime. I think everyone knows to what I am alluding. The government, however, has not reacted to these excesses. Instead, it has often criticized the independent press. I would like to ask the president of the Haitian military government: What solemn, public guarantees can he give the independent press in Haiti that it will be able to operate freely?

[Avril] Regarding guarantees, you spoke of threats. I am just learning about this here, right now, from you. I did not know the press had received threats, especially because I know many journalists who often call me on the telephone. I have never gotten a call from a journalist or any other member of the press telling me about any threats they might have received.

Regarding the articles in L'UNION, I have never wanted to interfere in what people say, interfere with the freedom of expression.

You have seen that the press can say whatever it pleases, under my administration. I have never attacked freedom of expression in this country—except for this recent parenthesis. I said it was a parenthesis; and I took the precaution of doing things legally. I am referring to the measures we took recently, a few days ago.

The press, however, has my personal guarantee that freedom of the press will always be respected, as I have always said. And if there are any difficulties, I am always ready to receive letters, telephone calls, or messengers who can tell me exactly where the problem lies, so that I can find suitable solutions satisfactory to all. Because without a press—but a responsible press—there is no democracy.

I have the impression that you (?have not had enough). This is, however, all the time we have. I will say to you, before leaving, that journalists may also request private interviews with the chief of state. My secretariat will always be able to schedule private interviews with you.

Thus, dialogue is now open, is more than ever open. We await the journalists, who may make arrangements with my secretariat or write, addressing letters to the chief of protocol or the Ministry of Information—in fact, write the Ministry of Information instead.

[Unidentified speaker] Thanks, Mr President.

[Avril] Before leaving I wish to thank the press in general, both national and international, and I say to them that I am counting a lot on journalists to help me progress, without faults, along the democratic process we started here on 17 September 1988. I thank you. [applause]

MOP Calls Event 'Farce'

FL0102202690 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpts] General Prosper Avril held a news conference at the National Palace on Wednesday 31 January, 2 days after the lifting of the state of siege. [passage omitted]

The first reaction received following this news conference is that of the MOP, or Movement for the Organization of the Country, with headquarters in Delmas. Here is the spokesman, Emmanuel Victor Beauvais.

[Begin recording] We of the MOP consider the news conference a new farce, a tragicomedy, just like all the farces we have been watching Gen Avril stage since 17 September 1988. We do not believe in the news conference because it was something set up in advance. We saw people at his side making [word indistinct] gestures, as if it were (?true) that he had not heard the questions he was asked—whereas we think the general was well-informed

about everything that was going to be said during the news conference, with only a few exceptions. [passage omitted]

We know that on 20 January, Gen Avril entered the home of MOP President Gesner Comeau and arrested him. They also beat him. He also arrested the MOP's secretary for organization, Camille Montero. Montero was also arrested and beaten. However, we do not think it was these people who had the weapons, because we ourselves do not have weapons. The only weapons we use are the radios and newspapers. We did not have any weapons! [passage omitted] [end recording]

Former Leader Manigat Comments on Situation

FL3101235890 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2044 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Former Haitian President Leslie Manigat today told PRENSA LATINA that a government that represses and bans opposition parties does not have the moral authority to organize serious elections. Manigat, who was in power for only 4 months following the 1986 overthrow of the Duvalier dictatorship, said that Prosper Avril's current regime took another step toward arbitrariness when it attacked opposition leaders Andre Bazin and Serge Gilles. The former Haitian president condemned the violence used by the Avril government to destroy the headquarters of the right-wing Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti coalition and the Social Democratic PANPRA [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti]. Leslie Manigat expressed his belief that imposing a state of siege is a step toward the reestablishment of a pure, clean, and hard dictatorship in Haiti.

Leader in Hiding Asks for Avril To Step Down

FL0102183990 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1040 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The government has lifted the state of siege decreed in Haiti on 20 January. [passage omitted] The exiled members of the opposition, however, feel unfettered, honest elections are still impossible under the regime of Lieutenant General Avril. [passage omitted]

The head of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, Reverend Sylvio C. Claude, who is currently in hiding, says he is wary about the military government's latest decisions.

[Begin Claude recording, in Creole] Let no Haitian, no political leader, forget that after Namphy trashed the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers and issued a decree aimed at destroying the constitutional electoral council [name as heard]... [changes thought] When he was being pressured, [rephrases] with the national pressure he was getting [words indistinct] international pressure. No, national pressure. The people took to the streets, and there were strikes and demonstrations and all that. He pretended to capitulate. He backed off. He agreed to open up (?the camp). He took back the decree. And then later, he went and did what he did!

That is exactly what Avril is doing at present. He is [words indistinct]. Since he is being subjected to international pressure and since organizations everywhere are telling him what he did is not right, he is pretending to have capitulated. However, don't you believe it! There is only one thing the Haitian people must ask right now: for Avril to step down. And I would ask the foreign countries that are our friends, the powers that are really truly the friends of Haiti, to help us immediately, before Avril lifts his head to finish (?killing off) the Haitians, beating them up, and exiling them. [end recording]

These statements by Rev. Sylvio C. Claude were made following the speech by Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril. Claude says he is very wary.

Social Christian Party Leader on Democracy

FL3101182290 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Interview with Gregoire Eugene of the Haitian Social Christian Party, PSCH, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Eugene] Certainly the recent events constitute a setback. No doubt about it! [passage omitted]

I refuse, however, to admit the democratic process has been completely... [rephrases] that doubt has been cast upon it. I mean, we will have to find a way to resume the process, because it is simply not possible, at a moment when dictatorships are collapsing all over the world and peoples are exhibiting a desire for greater freedom and an understanding of the concept of government, for Haiti to be so unfortunate as to be the only country taking a step backward! Therefore, I choose still to hope—perhaps an excess of optimism, but I choose still to hope—that the nation will resume its march toward a true democracy.

I hope the recent experiences will lead democratic sectors toward a much clearer, realistic awareness of the political situation and lead this democratic sector to realize that democracy, the democratic experience, presupposes a certain discipline, presupposes norms. We think that the tribulations suffered by the champions of democracy, the militants of the democratic struggle, the human rights militants, merely constitute an obstacle. We believe they will join the battle—that is, the democratic process—until the will of the national sovereignty has been made manifest, freely, fully, and without constraints. I remain confident. I hope that as soon as all the constraints have been eliminated, the democratic sectors will come together around a table to seek a national solution to this national crisis.

[Reporter] Do you think the 1990 elections would be possible, or really honest, without the participation of the opposition sector that has been expelled?

[Eugene] No. No. Listen, it is out of the question to have elections without the participation of the different sectors of our national life. [passage omitted]

For the electorate to make a choice, all sectors—I am talking about key sectors, of course, for there are, after all, phantom parties, but I am talking about sectors that are really representative—must be able to participate in these elections.

Conacom's Benoit Detained by Airport Authorities

FL3101211890 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1040 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Victor Benoit, secretary general of the National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movement [Conacom]—now a political party—was out of the country during the recent events in Haiti and the implementation of emergency measures taken by the government of Lieutenant General Prosper Avril. The Conacom leader returned to Haiti yesterday. He was detained for several minutes at Mais Gate International Airport by the airport's Immigration Service authorities. Benoit was subsequently released and permitted to go home with no problems.

Port-au-Prince Stations Resume Broadcasting

Metropole Resumes 31 Jan

FL3101153190 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Speech is at last free again after 10 long days of forced silence. The freedom to inform was severely curtailed after an Information Ministry memorandum ordered the press to broadcast only information provided by the government. [passage omitted]

During this long period of silence, some of our colleagues went into hiding to avoid being arrested and to escape threats. We ourselves were threatened. A journalist in Cap-Haitien was arrested and then later released. Others were constantly, on a daily basis, threatened, directly or indirectly, over the phone or through third parties. [passage omitted]

Throughout the past ten days, we compiled for you all information on searches and mass arrests of political leaders and militants. Heads of parties were arrested, mistreated, and then expelled. Four constitutional articles were also shelved. [passage omitted]

Today seven Haitians—political leaders and prominent civilians—are in exile in the United States or in Europe. Still others are in jail or bedridden. The opposition is torn apart, demobilized, and abashed.

We are two months away from the first phase of elections in Haiti. [passage omitted] Is confidence now restored? Has the situation been normalized? Two opposition leaders—Rene Theodore of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists and Gregoire Eugene of the Haitian Social Christian Party—will be answering these questions.

It must be noted that thanks to the state of seige established in Haiti 20 January there are seven people in exile today. [passage omitted] Other political leaders are reportedly still under arrest—among them Sylvan Jolibois of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Nationalist Sector and Rockefeller Guerre of the Union of Democratic Patriots, of whom his family has had no news for a week. Other political leaders or militants are currently under intense medical care, among them Serges Gilles of the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, who now finds himself with a ruptured eardrum. [passage omitted]

Soleil Highlights Events

FL0202025990 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpts] [Monitored in progress] ...Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [Panpra]—said Panpra leader Serges Gilles. [passage omitted]

In Dalon, Colier, (Grand Boulay), and Terre Rouge, the military mistreated 13 peasant members of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH]. These peasants are still, to this day, in jail in Thomazeau.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] These arrests were made on the evenings of 25 January and 27 January. These people are still in jail in Thomazeau. According to reports from relatives who have tried to see them, they were badly beaten and made (?to stand around naked) and are in such bad shape that they cannot even stand.

[Reporter] How many people were arrested?

[Speaker] We have 13 people under arrest. Thomazeau magistrate Kesner Pongnon and a certain (Zoel), who is reportedly also a member of city hall, led the people who made the arrests. They were accompanied by soldiers in olive green uniforms.

These person's homes were raided, and some were looted, such as the house of party Secretary General (Chrisno Fausto). They looted his house, took all the important documents he had, and demanded the people to tell them where PDCH head Reverend Sylvio Claude was, and where they had put the weapons that Rev Claude is in the habit of giving them.

We have no feedback [preceding word in English] as yet from other parts of the country. All we know is we have people who have had to go underground because the police raided their homes. [end recording]

Armed civilians and government soldiers were also looking for Gerard Philippe Auguste, leader of the Movement for the Organization of the Country, and Rev Sylvio Claude, head of the PDCH. But they have been unable to find them. [passage omitted]

That is a rough roundup of all the acts committed before and during the military government's state of siege.

We must say that many arrests of members of the opposition were made, and many of these people were mistreated, even before the decree declaring a state of siege was issued—which shows that many violations of the Constitution, citizens' domiciles, and individual freedoms were committed by those with the force of arms.

We must also say that many of the arrests and abuses were carried out by armed civilians. Despite all the government's and interior minister's interviews and the words of the nation's chief of state, no one has yet managed clearly say what they reproach the members of the opposition for: what they have done and what the government has against them, what charges have been brought against them, why the government used force of arms against them and beat them instead of sending them to court, if there is some charge against them.

Neither has anyone ever said why the government sent armed civilians out to commit some of these acts at a time when the government itself is accusing armed civilians of stowing weapons.

Nor has anyone ever said why it is the Haitian people's two main freedoms achieved since 7 February 1986 that the government has attacked: freedom of speech and freedom of the press, as well as the Constitution of 1987, which they trampled underfoot in taking the recent measures. Meanwhile, the military government claims to have established a state of siege throughout Haiti to protect democratic acquisitions.

Provincial Press Wary; Fears Avril About-Face

FL0102192690 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Report by correspondent Jimmy Prophete from Cap-Haitien]

[Text] Following the lifting of the state of seige and its corollary measures on 29 January 1990, the Cap-Haitien provincial press is being prudent and circumspect. One day later, on Monday 30 January, the local press—mainly the local radios—have still not resumed their news broadcasts. While it is true that official censorship has been rescinded, media directors and journalists hesitate to believe the retractions of the executive branch of the government headed by General Avril. Several journalists and popular militants have not as yet come out of hiding. They fear the military government might do an about-face at any moment.

The police searched a number of houses last weekend and arrested several people, among them a journalist, Hughes Florvil, correspondent for Radio Haiti-Inter. These people were later released.

On the other hand, a militant of the National Alliance of People's Organizations, (Fernel Manigat), who was arrested during the state of siege for having read an antigovernment press release over the air, is still behind bars.

This is Jimmy Prophete in Cap-Haitien for Radio Metropole.

Jamaica

UN Panel Notes Nation's 'Lack of Basic Rights'

FL3101201290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1832 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] United Nations, Jan 31, CANA—Jamaica has come in for some criticism from some United Nations experts for what they see as a lack of basic rights in the country.

After reviewing Jamaica's report on how it was implementing an international accord that seeks to guarantee people their economic, social and cultural rights and after listening to Jamaican officials explain the situation in the Caribbean nation, the experts also complained about Jamaica's failure to protect its poor from the ravages of the austerity measures imposed by the International Monetary Fund.

As the experts saw it, Jamaica's social network to help the poor was too inadequate and it had not taken steps to guarantee Jamaicans a minimum standard of living.

For example, members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights meeting in Geneva expressed concern that Jamaica did not have a social security system to help the poor and that it had failed to provide low-income workers with a guaranteed minimum wage. Furthermore, they said they found the absence of the right to strike by Jamaican workers to be unacceptable.

Another problem pinpointed by the experts was the lack of popular participation of Jamaicans in the formulation of policies and projects [passage indistinct].

Earlier, Benyl Nembhard, the director of Jamaica's Planning Institute, had told the committee that while such basic freedoms as the right to life, liberty, security of the person, and enjoyment of property as well as freedom of expression and assembly were guaranteed in the country's Constitution, there were no comparable measures that respected civil and political rights.

As for the right to an adequate standard of living, Ms. Nembhard said that her country was looking to its national population policy to help upgrade the quality of life. Specifically, she stated that for Jamaica to improve

its social and economic conditions it would have to make sure that its population did not exceed 3 million by the year 2000.

Its population is approximately 2.4 million, most of whom are of African descent, she explained, and the economic difficulties the island experienced in the 1980's had affected what Jamaica could do to improve and expand its social programmes. She described her country as a melting pot, a place of varied people.

Business Sector Reacts to IMF Agreement

FL3101210690 Bridgetown CANA in English 1958 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Report by Julie Chen]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, January 31, CANA—Jamaican business leaders on Wednesday said the country's new International Monetary Fund agreement with its currency devaluation was inflationary and a "bitter pill" but milder than expected.

The new economic programme presented in Parliament Tuesday by Finance Minister Seymour Mullings, called for the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar by 7.1 per cent to 7 to 1 U.S. dollar, higher taxes, removal of subsidies on basic foods, higher electricity rates, and tighter monetary policies.

President of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce Sameer Younis said that although the measures were mild, the package was still a bitter pill to swallow. He stated that the only way Jamaica, which faces a serious foreign exchange shortage, could get itself out of the present economic crisis would be to unite and improve production for export. Younis welcomed the further reductions of subsidies on imported foods, which he said would help local farmers in the long run.

President of the Jamaica Manufacturers Association (JMA), Anthony Barnes, said it was unfortunate that the new rate of the Jamaican dollar did not reflect the market demand and expressed the hope that this would be done. He would not say what the rate should be.

President of the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA), Karl James, said he did not think that Jamaicans would find the measures harsh. However, he too was concerned whether the dollar could be maintained at the new rate until March and whether the twice weekly foreign exchange auction suspended last October would be reintroduced.

Governor of the Bank of Jamaica, G. Arthur Brown, at a press conference Wednesday was confident that the new rate could be maintained if there was no speculation. He said the auction would not be reintroduced in the near future.

Financial editor of the daily GLEANER, Basil Buck, said the package was desgined to buy the government 6 or 9 months of time. The package, he said, was primarily a fiscal budget to impose taxes and reduce subsidies. "The programme lacks any sense of direction other than to ease the government's financial burdens," Buck said. He added that the package was "highly inflationary" and did not come to grips with the excessive demand for foreign exchange.

Speaking shortly after the presentation in Parliament Tuesday, opposition spokesman on finance, Bruce Golding, said the package was a "bitter pill" and expressed concern that it "gave no way out" of hardships.

Central Bank Governor Brown, said the new exchange rate, was not "plucked out of a hat" but was based on a competitive index worked out with the IMF and on the relative position of the Jamaican dollar in relation to the currencies of its trading partners. Brown said that any movement which showed that the dollar has lost competitiveness by more than 7 percent will trigger an exchange rate change.

The central bank governor dismissed calls by some private sector leaders to remove foreign exchange restrictions saying, such a move required large reserves of foreign exchange which Jamaica did not possess, to withstand the first wave of capital flight.

Deputy Prime Minister P.J. Patterson is expected to outline a package of incentives for producers during a presentation to Parliament on Wednesday afternoon.

Costa Rica

Medical Problems Cause Arias To Suspend Tour

PA0202015290 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0108 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] President Oscar Arias' tour of Montes de Oca and Goicoechea was suspended when he developed strong pains in the lower right side of his thorax. The president suddenly felt the strong pains and asked to be taken into a private home where he could take a sedative. However, the pain was so strong he was unable to continue with the tour.

Presidential sources have reported that the president was taken to the Calderon Guardia Hospital, where he was examined by a group of doctors who have recommended that he rest. The Calderon Guardia Hospital doctors performed some tests that reportedly did not disclose anything serious. However, the president was ordered to rest at home while he is treated for the pain. According to presidential sources, the president is resting and following the doctors' recommendations. Everything seems to indicate his condition is not serious.

Specialists performed ultrasonic tests that show President Oscar Arias has stones in his urinary tract. The doctors recommended the president rest, drink plenty of fluids, and follow special treatment in the following hours.

However, the president said he will keep up with his activities scheduled for this weekend, including Sunday when he will vote in San Joaquin de Flores.

El Salvador

Army Officially Relieves Benavides of Duties

PA0102194990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1858 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides, the primary person implicated in the murder of six Jesuit priests and their two employees, was officially removed today from his post as director of the Salvadoran Army Military School.

Benavides' replacement was part of a high-level reorganization in the Armed Forces, which, according to Western diplomatic sources, reflects an intention to make gradual changes throughout the year.

Benavides, who is accused of having given the order to kill the Jesuits (five Spaniards and one Salvadoran), will be replaced as director of the Military School by Colonel Ricardo Alfonso Casanova, who was formerly commander of the 6th Infantry Brigade, based in eastern Usulutan Department.

Colonel Heriberto Hernandez, who to date has been director of the Treasury Police, will be transferred to Usulutan, a department where guerrillas are constantly active. Hernandez will be replaced by Colonel Ciro Lopez Roque.

In addition to the Military School and the Treasury Police, the changes primarily affect commanders in the areas of persistent guerrilla activity, such as Usulutan and Chalatenango, and the Arce Battalion, an elite unit to combat the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), which is based in the eastern department of San Miguel.

These transfers and appointments affect a total of 12 colonels and, although the Armed Forces described them today as "routine changes," diplomatic sources feel they are designed to seek greater efficiency in military action. The sources feel more changes will be made throughout this year.

The first reshuffling in the Armed Forces for 1990 was announced on 1 January, that is, shortly after the FMLN offensive, the scale of which surprised even the Army itself, as military sources admitted.

On that date, General Rafael Bustillo, chief of the Salvadoran Armed Forces and one of the officers most openly opposed to dialogue with the FMLN, was relieved of his duties and sent to Europe as a military attache.

Replaced along with Bustillo were the chiefs of the military detachments of Cuscatlan and La Union, in the central and eastern parts of the country, respectively, and the chief of Army Intelligence.

FMLN Inflicts 24 Casualties in Chalatenango

PA0202013590 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0025 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] definitively defeated and crushed an enemy operation in Chalatenango Department today. We inflicted 24 casualties... [11-second break in reception] in Caballito Hill, Avelares Hamlet, Sumpul Canton, La Junta Hill, Chacones, Calle San Fernando, Los Mejias Hill, and Vuelta El Jarro.

Up to the moment we received this report, we had inflicted 24 casualties on the enemy troops, including wounded or dead.

Pay close attention! We have had a good start this month! We seized 6 M-16 rifles, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, 10 grenades, 2 Claymore mines, 2 hand grenades, 9 backpacks, 4,000 bullets for M-16 rifles, and 500 7.62-caliber bullets... [7-second break in reception] the battle that took place in Chalatenango Department today.

[Words indistinct] four war prisoners [words indistinct] including a sergeant [words indistinct].

4 Killed, 12 Wounded in Explosions, Attacks

PA0102163190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1753 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Jan (ACAN-EFE)— According to military sources, 4 dead and 12 wounded—including soldiers, rebels, and civilians—are the results of several clashes and dynamite attacks that occurred in La Libertad, Chalatenango, and Usulutan Departments a few hours ago.

The Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported that four rebels died and another was wounded in clashes that occurred in the towns of San Antonio Los Ranchos and San Agustin, Chalatenango and Usulutan Department, respectively.

According to the military report, five soldiers were wounded during the fighting.

Police sources have reported that six peasants were wounded by the explosion of a fragmentation grenade that was thrown by unidentified people in the town of Quezaltepeque, 25 km west of San Salvador.

The military report adds that an explosion caused damage, but claimed no victims, at a store in Santa Tecla, La Libertad Department.

According to Coprefa, rebels harassed the Army troops last evening in Mejicanos, northern San Salvador, and attacked the substation of the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission (CEL) with a catapult; there were no damages or victims.

Guatemala

Students Attack Buses To Protest Fares

PA0202023190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0058 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Feb (DPA)—Groups of high school students today attacked several buses in different areas of Guatemala City to protest city bus fares.

At least one bus was set on fire with Molotov cocktails, and two others were pelted with rocks. The security forces arrested at least 10 students.

Representatives of the students, who are demanding lower bus fares, met with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo on 31 January to try to find a solution to the problem. However, no solution was found.

In December, the bus fares were increased 20 centavos ($.05), an increase that was rejected by the students.

Today's incidents quickly caused a transportation shortage in the capital, and there were long lines of people waiting for transportation at bus stops.

Interior Minister Carlos Morales appealed for calm from the students, stating that these actions harm the general public.

Southern Coast Peasants Strike, Halt Harvests

PA0102195290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1633 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Patrols of the Guatemalan Civil Protection System [SIPROCI] today redoubled their activity on Guatemala's southern coast, where on 30 January there were some incidents involving peasants who have halted the sugar, coffee, and cotton harvests to demand wage increases.

On 30 January, there were several outbreaks of violence in farms and sugar mills on the southern coast after thousands of peasants staged work stoppages to force their employers to increase wages.

The peasants, mostly from Escuintla and Suchitepequez, tried to occupy some sugar mills but were turned back by riot police.

Police spokesman Guillermo Mollinedo said SIPROCI patrols, formed by the police, army, and rural guards, are in the region to prevent any incidents among the 10,000 peasants who have halted the work.

"The only problem was in the Madre Vieja sugar mill, where the peasants tried to occupy the mill but came up against a barricade backed by the mill's security guards," the spokesman added.

Mollinedo said those in charge of the SIPROCI sent more personnel to the country's southern coast today "to prevent any violence."

According to leaders of the Labor and Popular Action Union (UASP), the country's main labor organization, President Vinicio Cerezo had been notified of the strike by the peasants on the southern coast.

"The strike is peaceful and the conflict is strictly a labor one," UASP leader Byron Morales said.

The labor leader said the peasants have decided to abandon the farms where they worked so they will not be involved in illegal actions, which have occurred in previous years, when armed men set fire to sugarcane fields.

Honduras

Barco Invites President Callejas to Colombia

PA0102192790 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 30 Jan 90 p 9

[Text of letter from Colombian Ambassador Dr. Miguel Duran Ordonez to President Rafael Leonardo Callejas in Tegucigalpa; dated 29 January]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, January 29, 1990, Mr. President:

It is a pleasure to address Your Excellency and reiterate the Colombian Government's invitation that Dr. Virgilio Barco Vargas has extended to you through Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes, so you may honor us by visiting our country on the date most convenient for you.

Honduras and Colombia have maintained close ties of cooperation and cordial friendship, identifying themselves with the great proposal of strengthening democracy and governments that are representative of the people and elected by a majority of votes. These circumstances make Latin America proud and mark a milestone in the continent's current political-historical situation.

Your visit, Mr. President, will certainly support these basic principles and strengthen the fraternal links existing between our two peoples and governments.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

(Signed) Dr. Miguel Duran Ordonez, Ambassador

To: His Excellency Mister Rafael Leonardo Callejas, constitutional president of the Republic, Tegucigalpa.

Nicaragua

Ortega 'Willing' To Work on Normalizing Ties

PA0202053590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0333 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—President Daniel Ortega said today that if the U.S. Government is willing to normalize relations with the Sandinist regime, that "is easy to accomplish, and we are willing to work toward that goal."

Ortega made this statement when the media asked his opinion on some statements made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker regarding the possibility of normalizing relations between Managua and Washington, but with some conditions.

According to Baker, the conditions would be that Washington authorities reach the conclusion that the Nicaraguan elections on 25 February will be "free and just" and that the Sandinists have "suspended their support to subversion in Latin America."

"The issue of the relations is very easy because the Nicaraguan electoral process is being observed by OAS and UN missions invited by the Sandinist Government, which is a measure supported by the Central American presidents," Ortega said.

Regarding the "alleged" aid to Latin American guerrillas, the Sandinist president said: "We have always been willing to discuss that matter (with the United States)."

Ortega added that his government will insist the U.S. Government stop supporting the "counterrevolutionary" combatants who "kill the Nicaraguan people."

Ortega recalled an electoral campaign speech he delivered today in Puerto Cabezas, on the Nicaraguan northern Atlantic Coast, in which he noted that the U.S. Government has taken "some positive steps regarding Nicaragua, amid its policy that is disrespectful of international order."

As an example, Ortega mentioned that Washington could very well have broken relations with Nicaragua when the Sandinist government expelled 20 U.S. diplomats in December 1989 in protest over the U.S. troops' raid on the residence of the Nicaraguan ambassador to Panama, yet it did not do so.

He also noted the U.S. gesture of alloting $3 million to the Internatioanl Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV), to be used in the demobilization of the "contras" stationed in Honduras.

According to Ortega, the United States should implement a "realistic" policy toward Nicaragua and, as it has been capable of reaching an understanding with its "historic enemies" such as the Soviet Union and China, it should also do so with this Central American nation.

Secretary of State Baker also said that if the Nicaraguan Government continues preventing the entrance of congressmen to observe the electoral process, "it will be difficult for us to make the necessary assessment of (the elections)."

Ortega pointed out that U.S. congressmen, including the "more reactionary," can come to Nicaragua to observe the electoral process, but not as an official mission of President George Bush's government.

President Ortega made these statements to the media shortly before meeting with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, who since 30 January has been personally observing the Nicaraguan electoral process.

The Sandinist leader stressed to Baena Soares the main threat in the Nicaraguan elections, which he believes is "the armed actions by the counterrevolution."

Sandinists Deny Existence of Missile Sites

PA0102171790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1643 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 1 Feb (EFE)—Sandinist Commander Bayardo Arce has denied the existence in Nicaragua of sites that may be housing Soviet surface-to-air missiles, as reported on 31 January by U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON TIMES.

"That is absolutely false," said Arce, chief of the government's Sandinist National Liberation Front Party

[FSLN], to the press last night following a meeting in Managua with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES reported that U.S. espionage services discovered Soviet surface-to-air missile sites on the outskirts of Managua, which may constitute the first step toward the introduction in this country of "MiG-21" and "MiG-23" fighter airplanes.

Arce said that the U.S. newspaper is "owned by the Moon sect" and he described it as a "lying" newspaper and a publication "that does not usually receive information from Washington authorities because it is not serious."

The Sandinist leader said he does not believe that the reports of "false" sites are aimed are hindering the Nicaraguan electoral process that will culminate with general elections on 25 February, although he pointed out that "they come from certain reactionary sectors of the U.S. administration."

Sandinists Claim Right To Arm Themselves

PA0102152790 Paris AFP in Spanish 0802 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 31 Jan (AFP)—Asked about a shipment of Soviet helicopters that reportedly arrived in Nicaragua a few days ago, Commander Bayardo Arce, director of the Sandinist electoral campaign, today reaffirmed his country's right to get "as many arms as necessary" for defense.

On 31 January, U.S. newspapers reported on the arrival of an unspecified number of MI-17 transport helicopters.

Although Arce said he did not know anything about the new shipment of Soviet aircraft, he said Nicaragua will purchase "as many helicopters and arms as necessary, as long as the United States continues its aggression against this country." The Sandinist leader was asked about this by reporters after he met privately with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, who is visiting Nicaragua as an observer of the Nicaraguan electoral process.

Arce's meeting with Baena was "to clarify doubts" and update Baena on the preparations by the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] so the 25 February elections "can be completely normal."

Arce said he discussed with Baena "the old subject of the funds" donated by the United States to the opposition, the delivery of which has been delayed by the U.S. and Nicaraguan Governments.

According to Arce, Washington "did not act honestly" regarding the funds earmarked for the National Opposition Union [UNO] and "devised lots of tricks" to avoid diverting 50 percent of the money to the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] as the law stipulates.

One of these "tricks" includes the creation of one of the main recipients of the U.S. aid, the Institute for Electoral Promotion and Training [IPCE], associated with ONUCA [United Nations Observers Group in Central America].

According to the information supplied by Arce, IPCE will receive $1.8 million of the $9 million aid approved by the U.S. Congress in October 1989.

In addition, the Sandinist leader said he has negotiated for the contras to "stop their armed activities and allow us to hold elections in peace."

Chamorro Signs Three-Point Commitment 1 Feb

PA0202010890 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2327 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Mrs. Violeta Chamorro, the presidential candidate of the anti-Sandinist National Opposition Union [UNO] coalition, signed a commitment before the UNO candidates for deputies this afternoon. The three-point document specifies that the Chamorro government will be shared with the 14 political organizations that form the coalition. The future cabinet members and the new ambassadors who will represent the Government of National Salvation—as the UNO administration will be called—will be chosen from among the members of those organizations.

The document also states that, once they are members of the National Legislative Assembly, the deputies will expedite all the draft laws sent by the Executive Branch for their consideration and approval. The signing of this agreement is considered an important step to (?bring together) the 14 member organizations of the UNO. Let us listen to the statements by Mrs. Violeta Chamorro:

[Begin Chamorro recording] [Words indistinct] when I left to have surgery on my knee, the members of the political council delivered a document to me that we could all sign as a symbol of unity. I answered that I agreed in principle, and that we would sign it upon my return. On 29 January, I told Alfredo Cesar that I wanted to sign the document this week, and I asked him to review the final text of the political agreement. I have kept my word, and I am now going to sign the document that was presented to me on 6 February.

I invite the political parties and deputies to sign this document with me. Today we are 3 ½ weeks from election day. The triumph of democracy in Nicaragua is in our hands. It is time to close ranks. It is time to show the Nicaraguan people that we are worthy of their confidence, and to show the international community that we are a free and responsible nation.

Last 7 September we signed the document-creating UNO at the UNO meeting hall with this same pen, which was given to me as a gift by all of my friends. Today we are going to sign a new commitment in this restaurant. I will read you the document:

Political commitment and norms of the Government of National Salvation:

The UNO national political council, on behalf of the 14 political parties and the candidates for president and vice president, and aware that the Nicaraguan people are preparing for the electoral victory of 25 February 1990 that will lead to the installation of the Government of National Salvation, hereby commits itself to the following:

1. The Government of National Salvation will be a representative government of the 14 political parties that constitute UNO. The government platform approved by UNO on 25 August 1989 will be implemented.

2. With this purpose, the president and vice president of the Republic will maintain consultations with the UNO national political council.

3. Likewise, the UNO members of the National Assembly will expedite the draft laws sent by the president of the Republic, in keeping with the UNO government platform. Issued in the city of Managua, on 1 Feburary 1990. [end recording]

Chamorro Talks to Party Poll Representatives

PA0202030090 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2345 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Speech by Violeta Chamorro, National Opposition Union, UNO, presidential candidate, at El Pampana Restaurant in Managua on 1 February—recorded]

[Text] This message is especially addressed to the UNO party poll representatives and the future UNO deputies. I want to tell the UNO candidates to assembly posts, I want to tell you my friends, that you will be the axis of the new and democratic [word indistinct] that will transform our country.

I am very happy to meet you all. I think I will also meet those who could not come here today. I ask you all and those whom I will address later to conduct your campaign activities in your corresponding areas in support for UNO. That is what we need right now to win.

I will now address the UNO party poll representatives. Being only 25 days away from election day, I can assert that victory is ours. I have proof of that. I see it in the people's support, in the immense enthusiasm that we feel during our rallies, and especially in what I see in my people's faces. One can see happiness in those faces and we do not need [word indistinct].

Wherever I have been—and I believe Virgilio has experienced the same thing—I have seen faces filled with hope. They are sure the change will come, and it will come on 25 February. Only an election fraud can take that victory away from us. I doubt that possibility, too, because there will be many observers and people who will closely follow election day events. We do not want a fraud. We want our election victory.

For that reason, in 25 days, my brothers, we will have to devote all our energy to the defense of our people's victory. We must defend our people's vote. The Sandinist Front is already aware of its defeat, and for that reason it is conducting a campaign of harassment and intimidation against our party poll representatives. The state security is trying to infiltrate Sandinist supporters to pass them off as UNO followers. The state security wants those people to register as UNO party poll representatives. They are desperate and want to manipulate the election results in their favor.

Because I am worried about that situation, I urge UNO members, political, departmental, municipal, and [word indistinct] UNO councils throughout the country, our territorial organizational structures, and our electoral control offices to immediately begin working on the purging of their party poll representatives lists. I urge them to begin electing new party poll representatives. The citizens you select should be proven opposition members and should be properly trained to fulfill their duty on election day.

The new lists of party poll representatives should include a list of UNO candidates to assembly and council posts throughout the country. They should be the first ones to defend our vote and victory in their corresponding communities.

In the near future, we will [word indistinct] our friends and followers, especially those who, because of their level of education, can be efficient party poll representatives—such as professionals, experts, businessmen, teachers, university students, [word indistinct] personnel. I urge them all to work as UNO party poll representatives. Please go to the CONAPRO [National Confederation of Professionals Association] headquarters or to the UNO offices throughout the country to offer your services as party poll repersentatives.

Arce Views U.S. 'Tricks' in Electoral Funding

PA0102174090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0223 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 31 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Commander Bayardo Arce, campaign chief for the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front, complained today to OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares that the U.S. Government "used tricks" in the distribution of $9 million in aid to the Nicaraguan opposition.

The Sandinist leader said the U.S. Administration "did not act honestly," to avoid giving half of the donated funds to the Fund for Democracy that is administered by the Nicaraguan Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), as Nicaraguan law requires.

According to Arce, U.S. officials "invented a number of tricks," such as the organization of the Nicaraguan Institute for Electoral Promotion and Instruction (IPCE), to which they assigned $1.8 million. The IPCE has still not been granted legal status in Nicaragua.

Moreover, Arce said the United States gave $500,000 to the Confederation for Trade Union Unity, and $250,000 to "Civic Way," another organization comprised of leaders of the National Opposition Union (UNO).

"The Americans invented all those tricks" to give only $1.9 million to the CSE, which is in charge of the electoral process that will culminate on 25 February, Arce said.

Although UNO spokesmen claimed today that the government has not yet given them the funds approved by the U.S. Congress in November, Arce said the Nicaraguan opposition has already begun to receive the money. However, he gave no figures.

The Sandinist leader met for the first time today with Baena Soares, who arrived in Managua on Tuesday, 30 January, as part of his duties as an observer of the Nicaraguan electoral process.

"I have pointed out the maneuvers used by the United States in the turnover of funds very clearly to Baena Soares, so the OAS can reflect this in its reports," Arce said.

Baena Soares, who will end his visit to Nicaragua on 2 February, also met today with UNO leaders and with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

The OAS secretary general is scheduled to meet tomorrow with Managua Archbishop Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

IDU Delegation To Observe Electoral Process

PA0102142190 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Jan 90 p 3

[Report by Roger Suarez Martinez]

[Text] A delegation of 25 people from the many political parties that make up the International Democratic Union [IDU] has received authorization from the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] to enter the country as observers of the elections scheduled for 25 February.

Arturo Castillo and Juan Daniel Aleman from Guatemala are already in Nicaragua preparing for the arrival of the important delegation. The delegation will be composed of people from England, Japan, France, Austria, Norway, Spain, Guatemala, Colombia, and Jamaica. Some other countries are still waiting for confirmation to join the delegation.

The IDU, which includes such powerful political parties as the Republican Party from the United States and the Conservative Party in England, held an important seminar last year in Nicaragua calling for greater democracy Nicaragua.

The IDU delegation is scheduled to arrive at 1700 on 23 February. Upon its arrival the IDU delegation will hold a news conference and then meet with members of the government, the opposition, the CSE, and other Nicaraguans.

IDU member Arturo Castillo has said that the members of the delegation will organize themselves in several groups to visit the various departments and closely monitor the election developments.

The delegation will leave the country on 28 February.

Elimination of Some Exit Visas To Be Proposed

PA0202002390 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 4

[Text] Tomas Borge, commander of the revolution and interior minister, announced last night that he will propose to the National Assembly the elimination of the exit visa for all Nicaraguans, with the exception of men under 25 years of age who are subject to the Patriotic Military Service (SMP), women up to the age of 18, and children.

Borge said Nicaraguans will be able to leave Nicaragua without needing a visa issued by the Immigration Office.

He made the announcement at a meeting with Finance Ministry (MIFIN) workers, stressing that this proposal will be implemented once the law is passed by the National Assembly.

Borge referred to a poll that was published yesterday by LA PRENSA and which was carried out by the Civic Way. According to the poll, 49 percent of those polled support UNO [National Opposition Union], while 29 percent support the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front].

Minister Borge charged that all the directors of Civic Way are members of the so-called UNO.

He asked: Can they be independent? He added: "The Civic Way makes its own rigged polls, directed by you-know-who."

Borge, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, spoke about the current economic crisis, comparing it with the Honduran situation. He said that if the solution to Nicaragua's problems was to sell its sovereignty, Honduras should have already resolved its problems, "but it has even worse problems than we do."

In conclusion, he stated: "The popular explosions in Latin American countries that are U.S. allies show they cannot solve their problems with the resources they are given."

Former Contra Accepts Amnesty; To Support UNO

PA0102210990 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Former counterrevolutionary David Estatagen, who for many years was the right-hand man of FDN

[Nicaraguan Democratic Force] leader Adolfo Carrero Portocarrero, arrived in Nicaragua yesterday. Estatagen says he came to Nicaragua to fully join the civic struggle in favor of the UNO [National Opposition Union] slate. Estatagen, who accepted amnesty, says he will join the Conservative Party led by Silviano Matamoros.

[Begin recording] [Estatagen] First of all, I would to thank you for this opportunity to address my Nicaraguan brothers, (?especially) in Managua. It is very difficult after 10 years in exile—I arrived only 2 hours ago—to gain an adequate view of the situation. I do not feel capable of doing so. The poverty I have seen makes me a little sad.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you going to fully join UNO's struggle?

[Estatagen] I have come to join UNO's struggle through the Conservative Party, whose current president is Silviano Matamoros.

[Reporter] Who else arrived with you?

[Estatagen] (?Evanor) Valdivia came with me.

[Reporter] Did you continue the struggle during the time you spent abroad?

[Estatagen] I have always been in the struggle because I believe Nicaragua deserves to have a democratic government, true social justice, tranquillity, peace, harmony, and love.

[Reporter] How does the struggle look from the outside, from abroad?

[Estatagen] My observation is that the UNO urgently needs economic resources, which, unfortunately, it has not received. However, I am very satisfied. I am up to date on UNO's internal struggle, and in surveys within Nicaragua and abroad, Dona Violeta Chamorro comes out the winner.

[Reporter] Have you had any problems in Nicaragua?

[Estatagen] No, sir, none whatsoever. I was only asked to sign a document, which I signed, and I passed through customs without any problems.

[Reporter] Will other members of the resistance also come to Nicaragua to join the civic struggle?

[Estatagen] I have been told that there are over 20 former resistance members in Nicaragua. As I said before, only (?Evanor) Valdivia and I arrived today.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the arrival of Calero? When will he arrive in Nicaragua?

[Estatagen] I can tell you that Calero and I submitted requests for Nicaraguan passports on 18 October 1989. I did not receive a passport until 12 January 1990, which is why I only arrived now. Calero has still not received a passport.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Estatagen] I do not know; I cannot say. It has been a long time since I last saw [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Estatagen] [Passage indistinct].

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

[Estatagen] You are welcome. [end recording]

EL NUEVO DIARO Sanctions Discussed

PA0102145190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Dr. Rodolfo Robelo, presidential candidate for the PLIUN [Independent Liberal Party for National Unity] and former Supreme Court magistrate, has said the Electoral Law empowers the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] to reprimand and sanction EL NUEVO DIARIO or any other media for what it considers to be a violation of the electoral law.

When Dr. Robelo was asked about the EL NUEVO DIARIO management's claim that the CSE ruling was biased, because it had not investigated UNO's [National Opposition Union] links to former national guardsmen and other remnants of Somozism, the presidential candidate said the CSE has no jurisprudence to act ex officio in this case:

[Begin recording] [Robelo] The law empowers the CSE to draft an ethics code. In exercising its powers, the CSE issued that code, which was approved. As a result, that code became a law of the Republic and must be complied with. There are clear regulations on the need to maintain a certain kind of behavior during the current electoral process. Such regulations include respect for the candidates of the political parties and alliances to protect the good name of each one of them. I am speaking in general terms, because I cannot give details in an interview like this.

[Reporter] Based on what EL NUEVO DIARIO published, that is, the letters that the affected parties exchanged, do you think that the CSE ruling is in keeping with the law?

[Robelo] The CSE only reaches such rulings when it believes that there has been a violation or absence of ethical behavior toward a candidate, alliance, or political party. The sanctions relating to the Electoral Law that are applied are specified in the professional ethics code, which is in keeping with the political Constitution—the Republic's highest expression of the law.

In this case, if the CSE considered that the constant use of certain epithets against specific political groups or people warrranted a reprimand, it rightfully used its powers. A public reprimand is among the possible sanctions. It should also warn that the professional ethics

code also specifies that article one hundred and ninety something will be applied should there be a relapse.

[Reporter] EL NUEVO DIARIO accuses the CSE of being biased in this case; it claims that it has not investigated UNO's evident links to Somozism and that the constitution itself bans the resurgence of Somozism in Nicaragua. What is your opinion on this?

[Robelo] My dear friend, the courts generally react to the initiatives of interested parties. The complexity of an electoral process complicates matters. In the specific case of EL NUEVO DIARIO, I understand—and this is a personal assessment [words indistinct] and publicity media, because I have seen no files that would enable me to get a clear and complete picture—that there was an specific charge against a specific action.

Therefore, if any political party wants the CSE to conduct an investigation it must submit a written statement [words indistinct] to the CSE or the proper authorities. I do not believe the CSE has the power to act ex officio in this case. Perhaps [words indistinct] EL NUEVO DIARIO.

[Reporter] Does the law empower the CSE to conduct official investigations?

[Robelo] Under some circumstances I believe it is possible. However I would like to say that this applies to violations committed against the Electoral Code, but in this case these are matters beyond the scope of the CSE. They belong to the criminal courts. In this instance the CSE should rule that a crime has been committed and turn it over to the proper authorities, in this case the Attorney General's Office.

[Reporter] Do you believe the CSE should do something about some well-known Somozists who are exiled and contributing to Violeta's campaign funds?

[Robelo] My dear friend, the National Assembly has already ruled on receiving donations from abroad, without specifying where they came from. This was regulated, and as you may recall, the National Assembly has a majority of delegates from the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front].

[Reporter] Yes. However, the law says these donations must reported to the CSE, and this has not been done.

[Robelo] Definitely. Any donation must be channeled through the proper and established agencies, according to the law. It even decides how the donation should be distributed.

[Reporter] Don't you think the CSE should investigate this situation?

[Robelo] Currently we are engaged in what is called an electoral struggle, in which these type of issues are always involved. I would like to ask you, is the CSE empowered to investigate these matters officially? You are aware that an accusation should meet certain requirements—like specifying names, dates, and places and all other information needed.

[Reporter] My question is clear. You said some crimes are beyond the scope of the Electoral Law, and do not fall within the scope of the CSE. However, I belive this crime falls within the Electoral Law.

[Robelo] No. I am stating strictly, and I do not want to be misinterpreted, that a legal organization's authority is clearly defined. The CSE is an independent organization. It was created to deal with everything involving the electoral process.

[Reporter] The Electoral Law decrees that all donations of any kind must be channeled through or reported to the CSE. Some Managua newspapers have reported that some well-known Somozists have made donations to UNO. Do you think the CSE should investigate this charge outright, or should some organization or individual make the accusation?

[Robelo] To be clear on that point, there is no law that says that the CSE should conduct this or that investigation. This is a different case, because the CSE is now clarifying positions that will have effect on future cases. In the future there will be rulings that could be referred to and that contain the CSE's criteria. In that sense, the CSE has to analyze the situations that may arise and decide if it can investigate a charge made in a newspaper, or whether there is a formal written accusation that should be handled by the legal institutions.

Article Discusses CIA Disinformation Operations

PA0102195890 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 21 Jan 90 p 2

[Article by Jorge Canda]

[Text] The U.S. Army manual for psychological operations (Field Manual For Psychological Operations) [preceding title in English] refers to disinformation as a valuable mechanism to disseminate false information that leads to the attainment of very specific objectives within the framework of a psychological war against a certain country, government, movement, or organization. Usually, the psychological war complements a large-scale, economic, political, diplomatic, and eventually military offensive.

To develop its propagandistic attack, the CIA controls approximately 200 newspapers through a department called "universal propaganda" (World-Wide Propaganda Guidance Desk) [preceding name in English], which edits a weekly "propaganda guide" destined for CIA stations throughout the world. These stations are ultimately in charge of "adapting" the material to their field for it to be published in due time.

Speaking in CIA language, disinformation is a form of "black propaganda" based on false documents. Former CIA agent Ralph McGehee referred to the "company's"

activities in the following terms: "Wherever there is a lack of the necessary conditions to support a U.S. intervention, the CIA creates the appropriate atmosphere or invents and disseminates it in a distorted manner with the help of its influence over the media." In others words, something like what they did in Panama prior to the invasion. G. Neubergen and M. Opperskalski, authors of the book "The CIA in Central America and the Caribbean," point to Robert Moss as an important agent of disinformation. Moss reported the existence of a Cuban army in Uruguay before the military coup. Moss then said there was a secret army in Chile consisting of Uruguayans, Bolivians, and Cubans, among others. (That is the reason for the extreme xenophobia of Pinochet's Prussian army of the thousands of Latin Americans who have sought asylum). Subsequently, Moss discovered another army. He discovered an army consisting of Chileans in Portugal (after the April revolution of 1974). He discovered another contingent of thousands of Cubans in Jamaica (during Manley's penultimate administration) and another 5,000 Cubans in Nicaragua...

Phillip Agee describes the "black propaganda" in the following manner: "For example, the CIA station in Caracas can send a telegram about a secret communist plot in Venezuela to the CIA station in Bogota. The station in Bogota sets the whole thing in motion through a local propaganda agent. This agent would back itself with an unidentified Venezuelan Government official. The information can then be picked up by the Colombian press and relayed to the CIA stations in Quito, Lima, La Paz, Santiago..."

The case we are dealing with here exemplifies exactly what the CIA has done in one of its most recent destabilizing operations against the Nicaraguan revolution. The CIA used the newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE as a vehicle for its disinformation operation. Although it allowed the inflating of the "balloon" fabricated by the CIA, the statement by the government of Bonn that such reports were "promoted (...) by U.S. sources" is insufficient since the German security services are also involved in the operation. If the publishers of the newspaper, which lent itself to "whitewash" the black propaganda, are taken to court, more than the mere origin of the slander would be disclosed...

Panama

Endara Views U.S. Aid, Need for Opposition

PA0202005990 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2354 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Interview with President Endara by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Endara] The U.S. aid will be channeled through various projects and will basically be aimed at creating jobs, but in the private sector through private organizations. We do not want to use foreign aid and other aid for political activities. In other words, we do not want to turn these new jobs into political posts to employ our followers. The idea is to benefit all Panamanians. Therefore, the aid will go to the private sector and private organizations, and to the various organizations involved in development projects in communities, such as civic clubs—which can and must carry out work on various aspects, for example, cultural, social, and community work. In this regard, I think we are very clear: The funds will be used basically for the private sector.

[Reporter] Do you have any positive reports regarding the economic aspect?

[Endara] Yes indeed. There is already a clear reaction from the people, the industrial sector, and the private sector. They have reacted positively to the development plans for national reconstruction. With all the support we have—moral and spiritual—from the Panamanian people, and with the Panamanian people's desire to work, we will rebuild this country and restore it to its original condition.

[Reporter] Some believe there is no political group with sufficient morals to establish an opposition in our country. What is your opinion?

[Endara] I believe it will exist in the long run, and this is the way it should be. We are true democrats and we know democracy works with an opposition. It is necessary to have an opposition that criticizes us and points out our errors, because we are human beings and will make errors. Therefore, it is good to have an opposition that tells you: You are making an error here. That is positive. We believe in the need to have an opposition. We will give the opposition all guarantees, even those guarantees they never allowed us to have and always denied to us. We will give the opposition those guarantees because we want to have an opposition. The opposition will appear in time. We will wait for that and will welcome them.

Linares Says ETA Members Can Leave Nunciature

PA0202005890 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares has said the Spaniards of the terrorist ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] who have taken refuge in the Nunciature do not have any legal problems and can leave the diplomatic mission without being sought by the authorities.

[Begin Linares recording, in progress] ...the case of the four ETA members who have taken asylum there depended on the Foreign Ministry. I want to state clearly that this is absolutely false. The ETA members do not have any pending problem with Panamanian justice, and they can leave the nunciature tomorrow or right this minute without being arrested by the Panamanian authorities. They have been living here for approximately 5 years by virtue of an agreement with the Defense Forces. As far as we know, they have not

committed any crime in Panama. The only thing that must be made clear is that they do not have immigrant status in Panama. They do not have their immigration papers in order. The only thing Panama could do is deport them, as it could do with anyone who does not have his immigration papers in order. [end recording]

Former Attorney General Villalaz Arrested

PA0202000890 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2347 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Government and Justice Ministry today reported that former Attorney General Carlos Villalaz was arrested last night. The Government and Justice Ministry spokesperson did not disclose where Villalaz is now being held.

It has been unofficially learned that for the past few days, Villalaz had been trying to negotiate his surrender and that he turned himself in to U.S. troops after having spent more than 40 days hiding.

Noriega, Harari, Purcell Accused of Embezzlement

PA0102024890 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 14A

[Text] Former General Manuel Noriega, Israeli Mike Harari, and former [Air Force Commander] Colonel Lorenzo Purcell embezzled approximately $4 million from Air Panama (AP), according to a statement made to LA PRENSA by Julio Polanco, a flight engineer who works for that airline.

Polanco said that for a period of 2 years beginning in 1987, Harari rented an aircraft from the Jordanian Government for "$320,000 a month, although the normal cost in the market was $170,000."

"In reality, the Jordanian airline was paid $170,000; however, Noriega, Harari, and Purcell recorded the transaction as $320,000 and shared the difference among themselves, as I understand it, in three equal parts."

Polanco noted that during those 2 years and as a result of that situation the company lost approximately $4 million.

Polanco added that "they (Harari, Purcell, and Noriega) received their checks from an office over there (in Jordan), and AP has documents on this that the attorney general can review because the company has records of this transaction."

Meanwhile, some 100 AP employees picketed the Presidency yesterday, demanding the "privatization of the Panamanian-flagged airline" from the government so the company can move ahead.

Captain Jorge Llaurado, who led the AP employees, accused the "bad political administrations" appointed by the military regime of leading the company to "an economic disaster."

Llaurado said AP cannot stand more political administrations, and that the best solution is the company's privatization.

He said the government owns all of the airline's shares, which makes its privatization feasible and "would put an end to the problem of political appointments." AP is currently under the direction of Jorge Valdes.

Llaurado stated that AP has only one airplane, and that the reserves for labor benefits and maintenance costs have disappeared, adding that "so far no one has been held responsible for those irregularities."

However, he stressed that the airline should remain operational, explaining that this would benefit the state through foreign exchange, direct and indirect taxes, and "prevent the unemployment of approximately 400 heads of families."

Vice President Calderon Views Demilitarization

PA0102135990 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Maricarmen Sarsanedas]

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon said on 30 January that "I dare Latin American presidents to give us lessons on demilitarization because what we are doing has had no precedent in Latin America in the last 20 years."

When questioned by the press, Arias Calderon said that "no other Latin American country has had the courage of the Endara government in pursuing demilitarization such as that which we are undertaking."

When announcing new security measures regarding the Public Force, Arias Calderon noted that in the last 20 years there has not been one Latin American country that has followed a democratization process as profoundly as Panama has done. He added that in the cases of Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil, and Peru, the armies that supported the dictatorships remained intact and then supported democracy after the changes.

Arias Calderon concluded that the Panamanian people must feel proud that President Endara has taken this path because we are the only Latin American country in recent years that has had enough courage to undertake those changes.

Arnulfists Complain of Being Sidelined by Endara

PA0102192990 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 6A

[Report by Yasmina Reyes]

[Text] Arnulfist sectors are complaining to President Endara that he is not giving them credit for their support during his campaign. They demand to be considered for appointments to civilian posts.

Pedro Arauz, president of the Darien Provincial Arnulfist Directorate told LA PRENSA that "it has now gone to their heads." According to Arauz they forget that ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] won the elections "with a massive Arnulfist vote."

Arauz said: "We told our people to vote for any of the three ADOC parties. Now it has gone to their heads... they claim that they have more votes and are monopolizing the political opportunities."

The Arnulfists' main complaint, according to Arauz, is that they have been almost completely left out when it comes to appointments to posts with civilian authority. He said: "In my province, Darien, the governor and mayor have been appointed. However, none of the Arnulfists who suffered for so long were chosen."

Arauz said: "We complain because he (Endara) is appointing people from other parties... people who are newcomers."

"These newcomers have not suffered as we did along with Arnulfo Arias. We have waited 21 years, and we are still waiting. This is a long enough wait."

Now the Arnulfists are claiming the positions that they consider they have won in the struggle because, "we are the majority of the masses. We are going to prove this when we take to the streets with our party's colors and the little snakes [party symbol] that Nicosia stole from us."

Arauz said Nicosia is a traitor and that the Arnulfists will fight, to get back their party, to have Electoral Magistrate Pulice "and the other two" dismissed, and for the repeal of "all those baseless resolutions."

Arauz believes that, in a way, Nicosia's takeover of the party is partly responsible for the Arnulfists current situation. Arauz said: "He took our party away from us and we could not take part in choosing legislators nor anything else... we had to stick to the Liberal Authentic and Christian Democratic Parties, who now do not give us credit for our votes and are sharing positions among themselves."

He said: "Now the newcomers are in key positions and we are being left out."

Administration Removes Border Post Commander

PA0102160390 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 22 Jan 90 p 10A

[Text] Guillermo Endara's administration recently decided to remove Jose Manuel Echevers Martinez—who faces charges in Costa Rica for illegal possession of weapons—from the post of police commander in the Paso Canoas, people living in the border area have confirmed.

The Panamanian Government's decision was carried out approximately 15 days ago and Lieutenant Aristoteles Quintanar has been appointed to replace Echevers, who called himself "Commander Junior," as the Public Force commander at Panama's border area.

Victor Copris has been placed in charge of the customs house and he, like Quintanar, have assumed their duties with new personnel.

Echevers and a group of military men established a post in Paso Canoas once the U.S. Government invaded Panama. He and a group of guerrilla fighters, dressed in black, seized control of the border claiming they were trying to stop General Manuel Antonio Noriega's followers from escaping to Costa Rica.

Charges have been filed against Echevers in Costa Rica for the illegal possession of weapons, and the court of Goicochea issued a provisional arrest warrant against him in March 1989.

The Panamanian's lawyers filed an appeal to the resolution, but a higher court confirmed the Goicochea judge's ruling.

People involved in the process said Echevers had to report to the court once a week because he had been released on bail.

No one knows if he has been complying with the judicial order, but if he has not, the judge could declare him in contempt of court and demand his appearance.

The Panamanian is linked to a considerable number of weapons and a large amount of ammunition seized by the Rural Police (GAR) on 7 February 1989 in an area near a house he had rented in La Maquina Street, San Rafael de Coronado.

According to the documents seized by the police, Echevers had a $4 million budget to purchase weapons and to begin a struggle against Noriega's ousted regime.

Echevers' whereabouts were unknown as of yesterday, but he supposedly has his own businesses in Panama City. No one knows if he will be given a post in Endra's government, either.

Nils Castro Asks for Regional Solidarity

FL3101160990 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2349 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Group of Eight has been weakened since the exclusion of Panama and is currently facing difficulties even in keeping its other members, a Panamanian political leader stated today. Nils Castro, the Panamanian Democratic Revolutionary Party official in charge of international affairs, asserted that the evolution of the coordination mechanism has been faltering, and its protest about the U.S. military invasion of that country has been weak.

At the "Panama Is Burning" [Arde Panama] roundtable organized by the Autonomous Metropolitan University, he said that Mexico has given its total solidarity to the Panamanian people, but this has not meant support for the controversial situation prevailing in the country. He

stated that even though the region's countries are currently giving more support to Panama than before 20 December, greater participation by the area's governments is needed.

He stressed that a continental effort is required to expel the invader, and solidarity can be promoted to the extent that that nation's internal social forces demand it. He was of the opinion that the recognition of President Guillermo Endara's regime by some governments has been given conditionally, but this attitude has not translated into specific aid.

After the invasion, he said, Panama was left without sovereignty or democracy, with the return to political power of the old oligarchy on the shoulders of the United States. He insisted on the need for Latin America to support the departure of the American troops from that country, the holding of elections without foreign intervention, and an investigation into the damages and victims left by the invasion.

Moreover, Nils Castro, also vice president of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPPAL), warned that there is a threat to Nicaragua from the United States because of the general elections in February. He said that the Latin American countries share the risk if the American troops remain in Panama.

Editorial Discusses Aid, Endara's Plans

PA0102175990 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Jan 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Gratitude, Effort, and Sacrifice"]

[Text] The U.S. President yesterday requested humanitarian aid and direct aid for the constitutional regime of President Endara totalling more than $1 billion. In so doing, the United States is meeting the needs to reconstruct Panama. This fills us with satisfaction, a feeling that is shared by the Panamanian president in his thank-you speech.

President Bush's request from the Congress of that noble northern nation is in keeping with local formulas to retake the path of growth and development; it represents the backing we need to move forward in our reconstruction project.

In his thank-you speech, President Endara pointed out the areas of common interest that will be promptly tackled with this aid. They include important areas that were left in poor shape by voracious exploitation, fund embezzlement, and pharaonic defiance of the megalomaniac tyrant who is now facing jail, dishonor, and repudiation in a Florida jail.

They include the immediate employment of poor people in community projects, a financial thrust that would help businesses recover liquidity and strength, which would in turn lead to production and the creation of jobs; and on a priority basis, the implementation of infrastructural work required for national development. These are the three key elements of the government's formula to bring about recovery, smiles, and bread to Panamanians while neutralizing the dark era of military neglect that we endured.

In a calm, common sense, and timely assertion, President Endara has said the Panamanian people's own effort is the strongest and most vigorous factor that contributes to the success of Panama's plans and programs.

The Panamanian people's effort in the sphere of government is marked by sacrifice and devotion. It is urgent to cut public expenditures with a firm, disciplined hand, in agreement with the specific standards of our economy and finance. This entails a reduction in the government payroll, which now includes more than 150,000 employees, to many of whom no specific duties have been assigned. In addition, many of them served the dark purposes of governmental political parties.

This sacrifice entails announcing, in a loud voice, that the state's fiscal budget will be truly balanced without tricks or ill-intentioned purposes, so the medical attention, general health, general education, trade instruction, and housing areas can obtain the necessary resources.

In the framework of public measures, private enterprise should reach considerable growth and production levels. This way, joblessness would be drastically reduced and the market would control the flow of national revenue without the fascist distortion we observed in decisions by the October 1968 coupists.

Effort and sacrifice are now the banners of national action, when the Americans, with moralizing generosity, make us recipients of multimillion-dollar aid—for which we thank them and praise them from these pages.

Cautious Administration of 'Generous' Aid Urged

PA0102140290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 30 Jan p 1

["Panama's Pulse" column]

[Text] U.S. President Bush recently announced $1 billion in aid to help Panama reconstruct its economy, which was destroyed by the military tyranny. Many may claim that the aid is not enough. We, however, believe it is a generous contribution. We do not intend for third parties to pay our liberation bill fully. We do not know how many hundreds of millions of dollars were invested in the war of liberation.

The money in itself is not a solution. The money and its proper administration is. Our parents taught us that it is easier to earn money than to administer it well. Proof of this is the hundreds of millions of dollars in loans that civilian "economists" of the dictatorial regime obtained and squandered.

The $1 billion offered by President Bush will have a positive impact on Panama's social, fiscal, and economic situation if one requirement, that only Panamanians can meet, is fulfilled. That requirement is the wise administration of that

$1 billion. Those funds must be administered with absolute honesty and unselfishness and under surveillance and auditing. The people and civic institutions that form the National Civic Crusade will be watchful.

Column Recalls U.S. Support for National Guard

PA0202001090 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 1A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] At a news conference he held to conclude his visit to Panama, U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle tried to dismiss the charges that the United States helped militarize the Panamanian police. He said: "Noriega, not the United States, militarized the Panama Defense Forces, and we are now working jointly with President Endara to demilitarize the situation in Panama." Surely Vice President Quayle is ignoring the fact that shortly after 11 October 1968 the then National Guard divided the country into military zones and began organizing the air and naval forces, counting on U.S. aid, training, and resources for this purpose.

Over 2 decades ago, on 5 June 1969 to be exact, Jerry Dodson, the chief official of the U.S. Consulate in David, Chiriqui Province, resigned from his post in a letter addressed to then Secretary of State William Rogers, because he felt the U.S. policy of supporting the National Guard made it impossible for him to continue working in good conscience for his country's foreign service. "It is my position that our government must assume some responsibility for the National Guard's conduct because of our support to that corps. More than that, I feel we are going against the best interests of the United States by sidelining the enlightened sector of Panamanian society, not to mention of Latin America as a whole."

Mr. Dobson was very clear. It is too bad that the secretary of state and his predecessors chose to ignore him. It is easy—too easy—to feel that Noriega is solely responsible for the National Guard's militarization. If we truly want to keep the same thing from happening in the future, Panama and the United States alike must avoid incurring the same mistakes that ended in turning the country into a state at the service of the ambitions of the military. To achieve that, we must learn from history, because history sets the conditions for the present, just as the present will determine the conditions of tomorrow.

Editorial Discusses Future of Military Bases

PA0102221590 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 29 Jan 90 pp 1, 4A

[Editorial: "Panama and the Military Bases, Part I"]

[Text] The head of the defunct "Panama Defense Forces" and its high command had a criminal plan to extend their tyranny through a process of continuous military dynasties far beyond the year 2000. They totally dominated the Republic of Panama and involved it in corruption and international drug trafficking. The fatherland was the personal property of some military men, who used it at will and gave relative peanuts to the subservient civilians. They had two other targets for strengthening their international crime apparatus: the military bases and the Panama Canal. The Republic would have been virtually buried.

But the military liberation action sent their idea of military continuity and its two objectives for the year 2000 into orbit. We will present some ideas about the Panama Canal to provoke analysis and debate. In this note, we will present only some ideas about the military bases.

We pause here to express our conviction that the magnitude of our social, economic, and financial problems forces us to examine all options, no matter how daring, imaginative, or controversial they may be. We must not impose limits when we present controversial concepts to the citizens. Our duty as journalists is to reflect public opinion, as contradictory as it may be, to stimulate criticism and debate of national problems, and to present specific solutions so more enlightened people than ourselves can shed their opinions on them. Thus, with some daring, we present for public debate the topic of this and future generations: What should we do with the military bases?

We have prepared four editorials on this red-hot topic, which we will publish consecutively. We beg for your patience until all four have been published, and then we will gladly open our pages to the criticism, comments, analyses, and objections of our readers.

After 20 December, the date of our liberation, according to overwhelming public opinion, the Panamanian military will not occupy the military bases after the year 2000 for several reasons. Civilians are in power now, and there is no social benefit in financially maintaining the military bases. On the contrary, the prohibitive cost of maintaining them would take up huge resources that can be used for public works of far-reaching and important social interest. As far as the canal is concerned, the use and maintenance of some military bases will not effectively contribute to its defense. In the face of this reality, we are left with two options: We either receive the bases in the year 2000 and let the weather turn them into ruins to join those of Old Panama, Portobelo, and San Lorenzo, or we lease them to the Americans.

The U.S. Government currently leases military bases from several governments: Turkey, Greece, Spain, and the Phillipines, among others. No one thinks that their sovereignty is lessened because they lease their soil for another country's military bases. The legal concepts for these transactions are well defined, and the same ones could be used in Panama if the Panamanians so decide.

A recent poll presented that dilemma to the public. Do Panamanians want the U.S. Army to remain on the military bases after the year 2000? The answer to the poll

was "yes." According to this poll, 70 percent agree, although we are the first to admit that it is not conclusive. However, in our judgment this is an indication that the answer in a plebiscite would be sufficiently affirmative. The decision is up to all the citizens in a free and pure democracy, in which everyone has the right to express himself.

To take such a huge step, popular consultation is necessary. In a future editorial note we will go into other aspects of Panama and the military bases.

Article Criticizes Regional Leaders' Attitude

PA3101183590 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Jan 90 p 9A

[Article by Alfredo Rabat: "Ignorance or Shrewdness?"]

[Text] We have always heard people say "ignorance is daring." We cannot think of any other saying when news agency dispatches report that Latin American politicians, foreign ministers, and even presidents condemn the presence of the U.S. Army in Panama. To be sure, the newly sworn-in president does not escape the criticism of his Latin American counterparts. However, it must be truthfully said that we are now free, thanks to the help from the colossus from the north. That is something Latin American leaders do not want to understand. On the contrary, many talk of intervention, invasion, occupation, humiliation, outrage, and worse. Did not what Noriega and his cronies did to this country call for his toppling? Why did the Latin Americans not speak out then as vehemently as they do now, but choose instead to do nothing? We have here the result of their indifference to a situation that now prompts hypocritical protests.

They alone are responsible for the measures U.S. President Bush took. Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono says his government will not recognize Endara. Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez is calling for a referendum to legitimize Endara. Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco calls Endara the Judas of the Americas. Peruvian President Alan Garcia talks of humiliation and outrage, and will not attend the summit on drugs with Bush because of it. Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez asks for the withdrawal of U.S. troops to recognize Panama, etcetera, etcetera...

Let them. Let them. Not even when Noriega was at the helm were Latin American leaders so concerned about Panama. The OAS was never more efficient in condemning the government of a country as it is now; how many months did it take to make a decision against the disgraceful Noriega regime? What is more, they visited us several times to do it, and they went over and over the matter, and what happened? No one wants to accept the invitation to verify and comment on-site. All can decide and give their verdict from afar. How wonderful! I better silence the suspicious thoughts this situation brings to mind. Those are the only thoughts that come to mind as I recall that some of the foreign ministers who are speaking against Panama lived here, visited, and personally got to know the general of the virgin sabre.

Others even welcomed the dictator's closest advisers in their countries. Can it be mere coincidence? I hope so, but let us continue. Monsignor Marcos McGrath shouted for all to hear during a 9 January outdoor mass that the Panamanian people must not consider the U.S. Army's intervention an invasion, but a "liberation." Panama's archbishop is not wrong. His words remind us of the remarks by former Colombian President Eduardo Santos, who referred to Latin America's armed forces as an "army of internal occupation."

Indeed, the Panama Defense Forces, Dignity Battalions, CODEPADI [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity], DIGEDECOM [General Directorate of Community Development], and the rest of the institutionalized violence Noriega created against his own people were just that, and they were the target of the U.S. attack to liberate us from the yoke that oppressed us.

No one outside Panama can imagine the brutal repression the henchman's government was carrying out. With whistles, pots, and handkerchiefs we never would have been able to get rid of him. The psychopath was armed to the teeth, as has been shown, and we would have ended up his slaves had the United States not attacked his garrisons.

The governments of the hemisphere that had ambassadors here know this well unless, oops!...here come those suspicious thoughts again, but I cannot help myself when I remember that Somoza "won over" the diplomats in Managua to "improve his image." Yes, I am aware of the differences, because Somoza was a baby compared to the monster who ruled Panama. However, there are exceptions, such as the cases of Peruvian Ambassador Mario Castro Arenas, who resigned his post because he could not support the remarks by his foreign minister, and of Colombian Ambassador Jaime Hernandez Lopez, who told Colombian President Virgilio Barco that he wanted to return to Panama and asked him to recognize the new government despite Londono's comments. The others were "silent witnesses," as the inmate at an underground Miami jail used to say. Peruvian President Garcia dared to demand that we hold new elections. Does he not know anything about the 1984 fraud? That remark really borders on cynicism. Panamanians fought without weapons against a mafia that ruthlessly beat up, fired, humiliated, or killed those who stood in its way. Against all odds, they cast their ballots on two occasions to defeat an outlaw who, without U.S. aid and with the nod of the out of tune OAS chorus, would still be delivering weapons to the Shining Path, FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. He would also be sending cocaine to the four corners of the world and lending Panamanian territory to any fugitive, scoundrel, or rascal who wanted to come here to launder money, talk as he wanted, and be granted refuge.

That seems the fate our neighbors, judging by their attitude, wished for Panama in the community of nations. Ironically, now that Panama has become a decent country, the hoods, criminals, drug traffickers, and thieves of the Noriega regime took refuge in those countries that rebuke us and gladly take these people in as guests. Who knows, they may even grant them medals. That is the case with Alan Garcia, who will surely heed the advice of the persons who sought refuge, experts in all kinds of tricks, to avoid the avalanche of votes with which [candidate Mario] Vargas Llosa's supporters will smother him. Well, that is the last act of folly left for him as president, after driving the country to the poorhouse with populist demagoguery that is in line with worn out and obsolete socialism.

My bewilderment is even greater in view of the request by other presidents—insisting they will recognize the Endara Government only when the U.S. troops abandon Panamanian territory. Are those people aware that the United States attacked only the Defense Force garrisons?

Panama at this time is organizing a new Public Force—consisting of former members of the National Guard and new members—advised by the U.S. Army. The new Public Force will respond in the future to the security needs of all citizens in the country, once the U.S. troops return to their bases. However, for the time being, if the U.S. Army withdraws, we will be left at the mercy of "crooks" and despicable battalions trained by Noriega to end up with whatever is left. Those people are already showing their claws, right after the first troops returned to their country of origin. "What would happen if all the U.S. troops withdraw? Would Venezuelan, Colombian, Peruvian, Ecuadoran, and Bolivian soldiers come to protect Panamanian citizens? Perhaps, Mexican Police commanders, like those shown in the NBC series, will come. God help us!

Up until this time, I have not seen any neighborhood, from the upper-class to the most humble, from the old part of the city to Tocumen neighborhood, that does not feel confidence and express gratitude and respect toward the Southern Command troops taking care of order in Panama City following the events unleashed by the pro-Noriega mobs on 22 December.

Let us hope that instead of talking so much nonsense, Alan Garcia visits us and confirms for himself the affection the U.S. troops have among us, and let us hope [Diego] Cordovez accompanies him so they can conduct a plebiscite from neighborhood to neighborhood. Let the Venezuelan and Bolivian diplomats fulfill their duty so Mr. Perez and Mr. Paz Zamora get to know the truth. Let us hope the Mexican representatives and citizens request their government to get objective reports on events in Panama. Let us hope the diatribes of those who call themselves our brothers, beginning with Castro and Ortega, will end. These diatribes echo throughout the OAS, an organization that resembles a Las Tables [town in Los Santos Province] carnival street-dancing group, the members of which do nothing but drink liquor, thus increasing problems instead of solving them.

If Panamanian citizens were taken into consideration while these countries maintained their relations with Noriega, an elected government, which is the highest expression of the sovereignty of a people, deserves even greater respect.

Newspaper Article Stresses Need for Opposition

PA0102124590 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jan 90 p 10A

[Article by Milton Henriquez Sasso]

[Text] "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Lord Acton

The concentration of power is harmful to the social body, be it political, economic, in the media, or in any other field. The concentration of power will inevitably tend toward abuse, and abuse will generate injustice. The separation-of-powers concept as well as the Madisonian principle of checks and balances came about as a result of an awareness of this fact. The effects of the concentration of power also produced the antitrust laws and other laws that prohibit the hoarding of goods. Social, political, economic, and religious pluralism are not, therefore, free concessions, but a vital need for the social body to avoid corruption and disintegration.

Any government, regardless of the goodwill of its leaders, requires an opposition that watches and criticizes it. It requires an opposition that makes proposals and competes with it for the people's favor through the dicussion of concepts and services to the community.

Unfortunately, we do not see on the Panamanian political horizon a group that can accomplish this role properly, and this fills most of the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] government with concern.

Neither the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] nor the PALA [Labor Party] seem to be qualified for this task.

Besides the possible legal charges that many of these parties' leaders and legislators will confront, the fact that they have no moral authority to denounce anybody because they crawled in the filth of the past regime also works against them. Their parties were formed when it was in power, and many of them will not survive life in the opposition. Also, for the past 2 years, they have been defeated in the streets and in the polls time and again, and this must have left them with a spirit that is simply defeatist.

There is no guarantee that the PRD's patchwork blanket will be able to control the centrifugal forces that will develop and that will eventually lead to the fragmentation of the "Party of the Process."

The Marxist sectors are equally discredited and are orphans of the people's support since, in addition to the resounding failure of their historic project in Panama, they have to deal with the fact that world communism is bankrupt and their only future is in the pages of books that deal with the history of the first 8 decades of the 20th century.

The difficulty in finding an opposition plan among the ranks of the old regime leads us to search elsewhere.

During the years of struggle against the dictatorship, brave people came forward and they were, almost always, honest people who risked their lives and property to oppose injustice. These persons, however, have never been able to accept the discipline demanded by programmed political parties. They are good critics but bad builders.

Today we are absorbed in the task of rebuilding the country. We are working with what the previous regime left us and not with an ideal, theoretical figure. We already hear voices criticizing our work, but these critics are those who are unwilling to pull up their sleeves and give us a hand in the task. Despite the fact that they do not have a plan and are disorganized, they could, nevertheless, give us some sort of positive contribution.

Because of the lack of a real political opposition, other intermediary bodies will have to fill this role. Until a real opposition emerges, it will be vital to the management of the country that the media flourishes. Its pages and programs are to supervise government activities and propose alternatives so power is controlled and government activity checked. The voices of universities, churches, professional associations, civic clubs, and even criticism from parties in ADOC are needed.

It is healthy and necessary for various projects to compete for the backing of the Panamanian people. However, what must arise unified is our national project. Its parameters have been clearly expressed by the Panamanian people:

We are going to build a prosperous and reconciled Panama where justice rules, democracy works, freedom prevails, and, above all, a country where the threat of a dictatorial boot never arises again.

We are looking for an opposition to help us achieve our national project.

Article Views Campaign for Demilitarizing Nation

PM0202075690 Paris LE MONDE in French 28-29 Jan 90 p 5

[Article by Bertrand de la Grange]

[Text] Panama—Political circles, professional organizations, the Church, and the press are generally hostile to the creation of a new army to replace the Defense Forces, which have been totally discredited after General Noriega's dictatorship and after a total of 21 years of military rule. However, the authorities think it is desirable to form specialized units with the job of defending the territory and combating terrorism.

"We do not ever want an army again!" President Guillermo Endara has said this repeatedly since 20 December and he has just said it once again during his visit to Costa Rica, where the army was abolished in 1949 and replaced by the Civil Guard.

Talks with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987, related to this subject in particular. The latter "took the liberty of suggesting that Panama envisage the possibility of living without armed forces, because development depends on abandoning arms." But, Mr. Arias added in a letter published in the Panamanian press, "the demilitarization of a country cannot be carried out solely by changing the name of the armed forces institution. The mentality of those in uniform must be changed."

This is a difficult if not impossible task, according to some Panamanians who think Gen. Noriega's army is too "corrupt" to be redeemable. Arias Calderon, vice president and interior minister [title as published], does not share this view, although he is harsh in condemning "the criminal leaders who used the army as an instrument of repression and corruption."

That is why 150 senior officers have been dismissed from their posts (several are now in detention) whereas almost all of the 16,000 ordinary soldiers have been transferred to the new institution called the Public Force.

To avoid "any repetition of the past," Arias Calderon has announced "the demilitarization of several public services" notably the criminal investigation department, the immigration bureau, and the traffic police. With these modifications, the manpower of the Public Force will be reduced to 13,000 men (instead of 16,000).

The minister also confirmed that the budget for the forces of law and order would be considerably reduced (from $150 million to $84 million), while admitting that the very low salaries paid to the police ($280 per month) would have to be increased to deter corruption.

"We need a modern police force for a pluralist society, in which there will naturally be conflicts," he told us. Most of the combat units have already been disbanded, but the minister wants to set up "specialized units" to counter three threats, which he defines as follows: "the paramilitary groups (created by the previous regime and currently in hiding—LE MONDE editor's note); the international drug-trafficking organizations, which have just lost a very important ally with Noriega's fall; and Cuba, which played the Noriega card to the end."

With regard to this last threat, Arias Calderon added: "We must be prepared to guarantee our security if Fidel Castro refuses to have normal relations with us."

Indeed, Havana is afraid of losing the many advantages granted by the previous regime (purchase of consumer goods in the Colon free-trade zone to bypass the U.S. embargo, fishing rights, and communications systems to ensure surveillance of Central America—LE MONDE editor's note), but nobody really believes Cuba is trying to encourage the development of a local guerrilla movement.

Some Panamanians think their government is exaggerating this danger to justify the creation of a new army. Robert Eisenmann, editor of the newspaper LA PRENSA, who has just returned from exile, proposes to consult the population in a referendum, and personally advocates a "constitutional reform turning Panama into a demilitarized and neutral country."

LA PRENSA is leading the campaign to abolish the army. It publishes articles every day condemning militarism, while recognizing that the country needs a well organized police force to tackle crime. Sanchez Borbon, one of the daily's editors, thinks Panama should become a "neutral country like Switzerland, but without a national army or American troops."

But who will then protect the canal? "Nobody wants to destroy the canal," he replied, "because everybody needs it. And it has always been said that it was impossible to defend."

Colonel Eduardo Herrera, the new head of the Public Force, who is one of the few officers from the former regime who are regarded as redeemable, is not far from sharing this viewpoint. "We do not need tanks, or guns, or planes to defend the canal," he said. "We just need a small professional force ready to face a possible terrorist operation. I personally would like us to be able to be like the British police, who are not armed. But the problem is that we do not behave like the British."

Argentina

Ministers Announce Economic Measures

PY0102223090 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0035 GMT 31 Jan 90

[News conference by Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez and Public Workers and Services Minister Jose Roberto Dromi with unidentified reporters at Government House in Buenos Aires—live]

[Text] [Gonzalez] This is a brief introduction to describe the context of, and give the reasons for, the measures we will proceed to announce. A description of this context begins in July 1989 when this government confronted an economic situation of real crisis both in the public and private sectors. This crisis involved a deep fiscal imbalance with inefficient state enterprises committing a very high percentage of their budget to mostly nonpersonal expenditures in goods and services. On the other hand, the situation was characterized by unrealistically low exchange and utility rates and an inefficient and overgrown private financial sector that made it difficult for individual financial institutions to be effective intermediaries between savings and credits, between deposits and currency circulation, and in promoting economic activity.

An economic plan was set in motion within this context, and the first thing it brought about was a stability that must be contrasted with the hyperinflationary conditions prevailing in June-July 1989. Then, on the strength of a single and fixed exchange rate, practically frozen prices, and negotiated salaries, that stability was maintained for 3-4 months. The action of market or economic forces on some economic variables, particularly on the exchange rate, again undermined that stability.

We reached December with the need to make a first adjustment that raised the exchange rate from 650 to 1,000 australes to the dollar, but kept two markets, one official and another free, in operation. Also, utility rates, salaries, and prices were readjusted in the first days of December. It turned out that these adjustments were not in line with the evolution of market forces, and they were rendered ineffective within a few days. Then, on 18 December to be exact, an economic plan, drafted in accordance with what the nation's president calls popular market economy, was enacted. The plan called for a single free foreign exchange market, prices to be determined by market forces, salaries to be freely negotiated between employees and employers, and interest rates to be set by monetary supply and demand but established between depositors or borrowers and the institutions.

On 15 December, the dollar was sold at 1,830 australes and projected to be sold on 18 December, after the weekend, at 2,380 australes. Once the new economic model was adopted on 18 December and almost 45 days later, on 31 January, with the free play of market forces on all the variables within an institutional order still controlled by the government, the dollar price has more or less held steady. Today the rate is 1,850 to 1,860 australes to the dollar. This means that the great fears of the dollar exchange rate reaching 5,000; 6,000; or 8,000 australes; and of a great escalation of prices, have not come true. These were mainly psychological effects that put pressure on the economic variables.

On 1 January, an important and fundamental measure was adopted to break the financial constraints in which the public and private economic and financial system was caught because a considerable and large mass of fixed-term deposits were permanently, every 7 days, causing pressure for increasing interest rates or increasing exchange rates. That was the structural result of the fact that Argentine savers had no confidence in the performance of the Argentine market, and for 15 years national savings have been deteriorating and fleeing the country, seeking more stable countries that might offer other types of security; fundamentally trying to find an hedge against the deteriorating effect of the inflationary and hyperinflationary processes that have been affecting the country's economy for many years.

This shortage of savings also weakens the internal market, prevents the expansion of businesses, contributes to increasing unemployment, and stifles the creation of jobs that any developing country needs. Consequently, on the one hand, we have a wholly deteriorated public sector and, on the other hand, we have a private sector that has been suffering the consequences of the lack of savings. Once the financial constraints that caused the country a considerable budgetary deficit on the order of $500 milion per month were broken by reprogramming the internal debt—replacing Bonex [external dollar-denominated bond] for fixed-term obligations—the budgetary deficit was practically converted into an external debt to be serviced by the state in 10 years. This means that depositors will still have the possibility, first, of having their capital protected in a foreign currency considered to be stable; and second, the possibility of collecting a monthly income in dollars or australes, as the Bonex holder may wish.

This creates a different situation for the public sector by removing one of the fundamental factors for the budgetary imbalance caused by the quasi-fiscal deficit [Central Bank deficit caused by the service of the internal debt]. But a fundamental factor pressuring that imbalance still remains; namely, the state enterprises. These enterprises, as we have said, have been working inefficiently at high costs, etc. The traditional working method was increasing utility rates to meet cash-flow shortages, thus in effect continuing with the same inefficiencies. The national government has made a firm commitment, which was translated into law, to seek a reorganization of the state and to restructure and reform the state organization. This also includes streamlining state enterprises until they can be transferred to the private sector. This streamlining is fundamentally directed at reducing the most burdensome expenditures in goods and services. This is why the budgets of those enterprises are being cut considerably.

We suffered a 40-percent inflation rate in December, and in January that is ending; inflation will be higher because of a carryover effect of December inflation since the index reflects price variations from the 15th of the month through the 15th of the next month. Therefore, we have determined salary increases in January that will cover not only the December inflation, but also the projected January inflation.

I then want to say that the state enterprises face this prospect: Fewer expenditures that will be nominally higher by the inflationary effect. They must face salary increases also, and so it is indispensable to update utility rates, at least to recoup part of that additional cost. These utility rate increases for fuel, natural gas, railroad fares, and ENCOTEL [National Post and Telegraph Office] will be announced today, and the rates for electricity and ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise] will be announced in 48 hours.

[Dromi] As part of the state reform, the decree that establishes the regulations for the respective law sets forth that the Economy Ministry and the Public Works and Services Ministry are responsible for designing the utility-rate policy.

We have designed a policy which—at this point in time—will allow us to strengthen the streamlining measures and to successfully reform the state through privatization and concessions.

As you know, public utility rates are the fourth element in a system of economic variables, together with prices, salaries, and taxes. In this regard, we have introduced substantive modifications to three areas of the economy and the state. The modifications are included in the fiscal reform, the regulations of which have already been approved. This reform will implement, in a few hours, the VAT [value added tax], which will tax all phases of the work of intermediaries; the punitive measures for tax evasion which Congress is now studying—I am specifically referring to the tax evasion penal code; and reform of the financial system, promoted by the Economy Ministry so the private and public financial system may cooperate with the reform.

In addition, through Law 23696, the government has assumed the responsibility of restructuring the state.

The restructuring of the state undoubtedly calls for privatization, concessions, deregulation, and even the liberalization of the economy, as has occurred in the oil sector.

We need some adjustments to the utility-rate policy to maintain the operational level of state-run companies. We have modified our criteria based on operational cost studies and on our modest policy of public investment.

In 1989, we were burdened by a deficit of almost $500 million a month. This deficit, which was transferred from the first to the second half of the year, has now substantially decreased. Yet, as the Economy Minister explained, there are imbalances in the utility-rate policy which are known to everyone.

It is therefore our responsibility to adjust some utility rates, especially in the fuel sector, to allow state-run companies to achieve self-sufficiency, so they may require as little treasury support as possible.

We have irreversibly committed ourselves to streamlining public spending through short-term austerity measures, and to promoting the state transformation process, which will begin in 90 to 120 days.

Many Argentines, including ourselves, may frequently feel that we are in distress. We have been in office barely 7 months. The task of governing is so difficult that days seem to be weeks, weeks seem to be months, and months seem to be years.

Over the past 7 months, we enacted a new legal system and moved forward openly in reform of the state. The privatization process and the reform of the state are under way, particularly with Government Oil Deposits, which will solicit proposals on the international market for the sale of reserves in secondary areas. This transaction will generate an income of approximately $500 million for the Treasury.

Gradually, but effectively, such results have been achieved despite the fact that in the eyes of Argentines those results seemed to be nothing but promises.

I say they are being achieved because a call for bids is a commitment by the state which involves calling upon investors to have confidence in the country. This commitment also signifies that, in this case, the state will put oil at the service of Argentines, of reform, and of production; because if there is any battle we are fighting, it is the battle against speculation.

I will not refer to the ongoing sale of other state-run companies.

Yet I would like to recall that the documents for the transfer of 100 percent of ENTEL shares are ready. The final project for the sale of Argentine Airlines, which is still to be submitted to the president, is ready in my office.

As reported by the media yesterday, we have 10 top local and international bidders for the automatic bus-ticket system and for the urban and suburban railway services in Buenos Aires.

There are four parties interested in exploiting the Rosario-Bahia Blanca corridor; there are parties interested in the concession for the Argentine Railways repair shops. We have restructured the management system of Argentine Railways, and we expect that the toll-collecting facilities covering the 10,000 km [figure as heard] of national highways will be completed in April or May, and 88 Argentine enterprises have submitted their proposals because they have faith in the system of concessions and in the investment of risk capital.

We also expect that some vital concessions of port facilities will be granted in April or May. We will turn the permission currently granted to ENCOTEL for rendering mail services into a concession, after calling for bids.

Summing up, the reform of the state is an irreversible and nonnegotiable political stand of the government. The state reform and the fiscal and financial reforms are three vital instruments for creating a new state, a new model of coexistence.

There are situations like this in which we have to announce that utility rates must be increased. It may seem unfair to again have to resort to your pockets and to ask you to contribute more effort and money. There is nothing we can do, however, because we cannot continue to sell fuel at prices lower than the international price. If we sell fuel at lower prices, we will be giving away the assets that belong to Argentines. You should realize that oil is an asset that belongs to all Argentines.

In the area of fuel, the government has practically no choice. If we want to be consistent with our policy of liberalization, with the policy of ending restrictions on the economy, with the policy of deregulation—which has been warmly welcomed by international companies....[changes thought] Thanks to this, during our administration we were able to negotiate through the Energy Secretariat and through Government Oil Deposits all Houston Plan proposals. We even made progress toward the sale of secondary areas. We believe this has been achieved because of the credibility of the system and because we need crude oil at competitive prices.

If crude oil prices have been lower than the international price, we have been improperly paying a subsidy with Argentine wealth.

I therefore believe that this arrangement with the Economy Ministry, which we reached without any differences or disputes.... [changes thought] Neither have we disputed with the IMF, nor has it monitored us in the past few days.

On the contrary, we are working with each specific public enterprise, estimating the period during which it will remain under state management. We are computing its operational costs on the basis of the last salary readjustment. This is how we are designing a utility rate policy that will allow us to provide reasonable and decent services and comply with the obligations of each state-run enteprise.

Consequently, we would like to reassure you, because the structural reforms that the people ordered us to implement.... [changes thought] This is not the will of a minister or of a president; we are caryying out the will of the people.

From a legal viewpoint, it is essential to reform the state, design a new fiscal and tax system, and design a new financial system.

We are complying with the sovereign will of the people. These adjustments, these steps which are being taken as part of the policy on prices and utility rates, aim at alleviating problems, at insuring reform, and at waging as strong a battle as possible against the fiscal deficit which is the sworn enemy of all Argentines. Without a fiscal deficit we will not have a stable economy [as heard].

Beyond all doubt, the creation of a stable economy is a priority goal of the government. It is a task which has been entrusted to the economy minister. We, from the Public Works Ministry and from all other areas should support this action because this sustained effort will undoubtedly allow us to build an economy in which wealth will be redistributed: a participative economy which will not be permanently marked by recession, complaints, and dissatisfaction.

These thoughts should explain the political guidelines for the decision to increase rates, as will be announced by the economy minister. For your peace of mind, however, I would like to tell you that the increase will be smaller—considerably smaller from several viewpoints—than the salary increases which have been granted over the past few days.

[Gonzalez] I now announce that premium gasoline will increase by 38 percent, raising its price per liter to 890 australes; regular gasoline will increase by 38.9 percent, raising its price per liter to 750 australes; kerosene will be hiked to 350 australes; gas oil to 490 australes; diesel oil to 450 australes; and fuel oil to 220 australes. The increase for kerosene is 125.8 percent because its current price has fallen behind and because it is being fraudulently added to gas oil to be sold at the price of pure gas oil. The evidence of this maneuver is that in these summer months, the normal consumption of kerosene is usually 250,000 cubic meters; in January, YPF [Government Oil Deposits] sold 1.250 billion cubic meters. This maneuver has a negative financial impact on YPF.

As for ENCOTEL, the average increase is 80 percent; for railroad fares, the average increase is 90 percent. Here we want to mention that a Buenos Aires-Mar del Plata railroad ticket now costs 3,880 australes, while the trip by bus costs 16,100 australes; a railroad trip from Cordoba to Buenos Aires costs 6,700 australes, while an economy-class bus trip costs 29,500 australes; a 12-kilometer trip by intercity railroad costs 140 australes compared to 280 australes by subway. Thus, a 90-percent increase in railroad fares is not as high as it may appear; it just places railroad fares at a level closer to that of current bus fares. To sum up, bus fares are four times higher than railroad fares.

As for natural gas, we will initiate a new way of charging for it; we establish a minimum 2-month consumption of up to 90 cubic meters for a minimum rate of 8,000 australes. This means 4,000 australes per month for gas consumption, and 90 cubic meters means 2 bottles per month. In those areas where there is no house service of

natural gas, its price is already twice as much. [as heard] The consumption volume of 90 cubic meters represents approximately 50 percent of consumers. The new rate of 4,000 australes per month or 8,000 australes for 2 months is equivalent to less than a magazine per month, less than a movie ticket. We are thus noting that with the increase, natural gas house service is still less expensive than other goods that are not indispensable but which are still being consumed.

As I said before, electricity and ENTEL rates will be announced 48 hours to allow time for further study on how to streamline ENTEL expenditures and to factor the increased fuel prices into the cost of electricity.

[Announcer] We have 10 minutes for questions.

[Reporter][Question indistinct].

[Gonzalez] Let me reiterate the increases: 38 percent for premiun gasoline; 38.9 percent for regular gasoline; 125.8 percent for kerosene; 66 percent for gas oil; 119.5 for diesel oil; and 98.2 for fuel oil.

[Reporter][Question indistinct].

[Gonzalez] The average increase for natural gas is 90 percent. Regarding the minimum consumption I would have to calculate it but I do not have the current price. What we did was take the minimum rate to 8,000 australes for 2 months—excuse me—I mean up to 90 cubic meters.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Gonzalez] Regarding bus fares, the hikes will be negotiated because of the fuel increase. We should keep in mind that the fuel price increase cannot be fully transferred to bus fares. We must look at the incidence of the fuel price increase because fuel is only a part of the total transportation cost.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Gonzalez] I have not yet calculated the railroad fares. I only have the average increase percentage.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Dromi] The value-added tax goes into effect as of 0000 1 February; therefore, the new rates include the tax.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]. Will the price adjustments continue? [Words indistinct].

[Gonzalez] If the economic variables such as the exchange rate, interest rates, etc., continue the way they have been for the last 30 days, we hope inflation will be considerably reduced and there will be no need for new adjustments. But I cannot assure that until we are able to achieve the stability we want. What I can say is that after evaluating the situation during the last 45 days, we can see the basic variables are becoming stable. In other words, the negative growth up to December of last year has been broken. This is the main reason for the current adjustments.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Gonzalez] The IMF had planned to review our case after the second disbursement scheduled in the September standby. However, when we took over the government we invited the IMF officials to send a mission to study the new situation after the new economic model was implemented, especially after the 1 January 1990 measures. The IMF is currently studying the projections for 1990 according to this economic model. After a review and analysis, IMF officials will submit a report to the IMF executive board. We will then meet with the board to conclude the review to try to obtain the second disbursement.

[Reporter] Considering the current adjustments of 80 and 90 percent in some cases, what is the inflation rate you expect for February if you were expecting it to be below the January rate?

[Gonzalez] Let me clarify that these adjustments are below the accumulated inflation rate of December and January; therefore, this is part of the recovery of losses caused by the previous inflation, and I say part because the other part is recovered through the reduction of expenditures.

[Reporter] The implementation of the value-added tax creates a distortion in the market, increasing the prices of basic foods considerably. When fuel prices increase, whether we like it or not, transporters also increase costs at the same percentage and this increase direclty affects basic food prices. How will the government prevent this from occurring?

[Gonzalez] The government will prevent this through two mechanisms. One of them is the act signed with the two CGT [General Confederation of Labor] by which the government promised to compensate part of the effect of the value-added tax on basic foods. The compensation will probably be made through a fixed amount to be established for lower salary levels. I would also like to point out that the government-labor-management bargaining commission is free to negotiate; therefore, if there is an indication that there is going to be a deterioration of salaries as a result of these measures or of other measures, the commission can meet to discuss the recovery of the purchasing power of salaries. We have said, and we would like to reiterate, that salary is not up for adjustment; we are not freezing and putting a ceiling on salaries. Therefore, the possibilities for bargaining are open until an agreement is reached.

[Reporter] You said that on approximately 18 December the dollar rate was about 1,850 australes, that 45 days later the dollar rate is approximately the same, and that this was achieved through the liberation of the exchange market. Up to that time the prices of products and services moved along with the dollar. If the dollar

became stable in 45 days with the liberation of the market, why haven't utility rates, which have sytematically increased, and prices stabilized? What variables are escaping from the government measures to stabilize them?

[Gonzalez] There are three aspects. First, I did not say that dollar stability was achieved through the liberation of the market. I said that despite the liberation the exchange rate in the last 45 days remained at practically the same level. Second, the last utility rate adjustment was made on approximately 5 December, or in the first days of December, before the inflation rate of December and January. Third, I would like to remind you that in December, as a result of a series of psychological factors, as we said, prices began to escalate at the level of an alleged dollar rate of 4,000, 5,000, and 6,000 australes. It is still difficult to return to the adequate level and we are going to feel part of those effects in the January inflation rate. Therefore, I would like to reiterate that the dollar exchange rate is showing that in this context there is no need for the state to intervene to fix a ceiling, to fix a limit: that the market is stabilizing the dollar naturally.

[Reporter] What is the cost of that difference?

[Gonzalez] That prices have increased and that they have not been able to drop to their original level, and that there is a great difference in cost. What I can assure you is that salaries are not paying that cost. This is why we left the labor-management bargaining commission free to compensate and neutralize the effects of price increases.

[Reporter] What about salaries in the public sector?

[Gonzalez] The same thing. Public-sector salaries have received increases of at least 40 percent to compensate for December inflation but the majority of this sector has really received increases of 62 and 64 percent.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Gonzalez] It is not an IMF imposition. What we need to do is have a manageable and rational inflation rate, which for our country can be 2 or 3 percent per month. But I would like to reiterate; I want this to remain quite clear: It is not that we are negotiating, or that someone is imposing a determined inflation rate. We need to have a stable economy; a healthy currency; an economy which will allow investments, which will attract investments, and which will not allow speculation to become the basic attraction of the economy. We are the ones obligated to seek equilibrium and to break the inflation to which our economy is accustomed.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Gonzalez] That is right, the Argentine Government established its own projection, a projection of 15-percent inflation for 1990. We already know what happened as of October when the variables began to move. This is why it is now necessary to make this adjustment and this projection in line with the economy's new game rules.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the salary agreements will last until March. The salary agreements do not consider the new adjustments. Will salaries be negotiated before March?

[Gonzalez] Let me clarify that the salary agreements were signed on 1 January, and the adjustments, in the case of fuel prices, will have an effect as of 1 February. But in the case of the other adjustments, they have a direct effect only after 45 or 60 days.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] salary adjustment will be made within the framework of the labor-management bargaining commission.

[Gonzalez] I do not recall having said that there will be a salary adjustment because the government no longer intervenes in fixing salaries. The commission is free to do that. What I said is that there may be a compensation because of the effect of the value-added tax on basic foods for the public sector, and of course this may be an example for the private sector to do the same or for the bargaining commission to meet to discuss the impact of the value-added tax.

[Reporter] Regarding the compensation, are fixed sums similar to previous ones under study?

[Gonzalez] This is what we are thinking in principle. We need a way to neutralize part of the impact. We have to calculate this. Let me clarify something. The implementation of the value-added tax, which has an aliquot of 13 percent does not necessarily mean prices must increase 13 percent because the value-added taxes which are being paid through sales are subtracted from that percentage. Therefore, the net impact of this tax may be 6 or 7 percent.

Correction to Visit of Costa Rican President

PY0102180890

The following correction pertains to the item published in the 31 January Latin America DAILY REPORT, in the Argentina section, page 43, headlined "March Visit by Costa Rican President Announced":

The sourceline should read: Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1005 GMT 31 Jan 90 (correcting sourceline)

Bolivia

Former Noriega Aides Expected To Arrive 2 Feb

PY0202121490 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1147 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Report by Oscar Osman Ordonez from Cochabamba]

[Text] Two Panamanians who took shelter at the Bolivian Embassy in Panama and who were aides to former Panamanian strongman General Noriega will

arrive in the next few hours at El Alto International Airport in the city of La Paz aboard a Lloyd Bolivian Airline [LAB] airplane.

This was reported by LAB general manager Fernando Vargas who said that, at the request of the Bolivian Foreign Ministry, the LAB airplane will deliver two Panamanians who sought asylum at the Bolivian Embassy in Panama.

Iturralde on Drug Meeting, Garcia Arrest Report

PY0202113090 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde told the press today that there is no official information about the alleged arrest of former President Luis Garcia Meza. He added that the economic issue will not be discussed at the drug summit in Cartagena, Colombia.

[Begin recording] [Iturralde] I believe that the report of Garcia's arrest is only a rumor. This question should, however, be put to the interior minister.

[Reporter] Will Bolivia receive $600 million in aid during the Cartagena drug summit [words indistinct]?

[Iturralde] I have never said how much we will discuss in Cartagena [passage indistinct]. We have a plan which we will disclose to the country at the appropriate time.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Iturralde] Yes, you arrived here a bit late. I have already said that we want the United States, the international organizations, and other countries to participate in what we call the alternative development which, as you well know, is of vital importance to Bolivia. [end recording]

Brazil

Collor Names Official, Arrives in Moscow

PY3101115990 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpts] While in Japan, President-elect Fernando Collor announced the name of the future chief of the civilian household. He also said that he has the names of all the future ministers. [passage omitted]

Just before leaving for Moscow, Collor made an announcement and talked about his visit to Japan.

[Begin recording] [Collor] I saw a real interest, not only by the government but also by businessmen, in the future of Brazil, and this is a very positive signal.

[Reporter] Have you made a decision about who is going to be your chief of the civilian household?

[Collor] Marcos Coimbra will be the chief of the civilian household. [end recording] [passage omitted]

President-elect Fernando Collor is already in Moscow. His visit is covered by our special envoy Silvio Bocanegra.

[Begin Silvio recording] After a long flight from Tokyo, Collor arrived in Moscow tonight. The highest Soviet official who welcomed him at the airport was Anatoliy Lukyanov, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet. The temperature in Moscow was 0 degrees centigrade. The president-elect went to the residence offered by the Soviet Government in the Lenin Hills. Despite the invitation to visit Red Square and Saint Basil's Cathedral, Collor decided to rest.

The official agenda of the president-elect here in Moscow tomorrow includes a meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev in the Kremlin. He will also meet with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Tomorrow night he will go to the Bolshoi Theater to see the ballet Giselle. [end recording]

Meets With Gorbachev 31 Jan

PY3101170990 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] A short time ago President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Kremlin. Collor considers this one of the most important meetings during his tour of Europe. He is due to visit the FRG, Great Britain, Italy, France, Portugal, and Spain.

During the meeting with Gorbachev, Collor reiterated an invitation for the Soviet leader to attend his inauguration on 15 March. The agenda also included Soviet-Brazilian relations under the future Brazilian Government.

Early today, before going to the Kremlin, Collor jogged for 75 minutes to keep in good shape. He jogged in the vicinity of the official residence at which he is staying, the Lenin Hills. He was accompanied by security guard (Dario Cesar Cavalcante). He then went to the Kremlin.

The meeting began at 1030, 0530 Brasilia time. Collor was accompanied only by future Civilian Household Chief Marcos Coimbra, while Gorbachev was accompanied by an interpreter.

Collor began by saying that he is very happy to be in the USSR, adding that he took the Cooper fitness test on the streets of Moscow. Gorbachev replied that it was a distinct honor for Moscow to host such an important athlete.

The journalists were allowed to stay at the room for only 5 minutes. In response to a question from a Brazilian reporter, Gorbachev denied that he would resign next week, as had been reported by the U.S. television. He said that rumors of this type are usually circulated whenever there is an important meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. He added that the situation in the USSR has changed a lot and that decisions are now taken in the open.

Japan To Disburse $6.5 Billion Fund to Country

PY0102173990 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Jan 90 p 3

[Report by special correspondent Marcelo Neto]

[Text] Moscow—It has been confirmed to President-elect Fernando Collor that the Japanese Government will disburse a $6.5-billion fund earmarked for Brazil but not released to the current Brazilian administration because of Sarney's economic policy. Collor was also told that the Japanese may invest another $40 billion in Brazil in the medium term. These are the first concrete results of Collor's visit to Japan and the United States.

Collor promised the Japanese that as soon as he takes office he will return to Japan to negotiate the Brazilian foreign debt with creditor banks. This is the first practical demonstration of how he will personally handle government affairs. Collor had said that he himself will be the economy minister. As a major Japanese businessman put it, this attitude has encouraged the Japanese, who have seen that Collor has adopted Gorbachev's system of personally tackling problems.

Collor also said to Japanese bankers that he will negotiate an accord with the IMF as soon as he is installed. This accord is a precondition for the disbursement of Japanese funds. During the talks, however, Collor pointed out that the negotiation with the IMF will be carried out in accordance with an agreement reached with U.S. and Japanese banks that the payment of the Brazilian foreign debt should not affect Brazil's economic development.

Collor will return to Japan as soon as he assumes office . He confirmed in Tokyo that he will attend the investiture ceremony of Crown Prince Hironomiya, the son of Emperor Akihito, the first heir to the throne. On this occasion Collor will directly negotiate the Brazilian debt with Japanese creditors. This will be the first practical demonstration of how he will personally handle government affairs.

In Tokyo, Collor also met with Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, with whom he analyzed the same issues he had previously addressed with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. Collor asked for new investments in Brazil.

Chile

Errazuriz on End of Moscow Propaganda Programs

PY0202031490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Radio Moscow has discontinued its disinformation campaign against Chile. This campaign had been going on since 1973. Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz stated today that the Soviet Government decision to end special Radio Moscow programs about Chile is an important step toward the reestablishment of diplomatic relations within the framework of mutual respect and compliance with international law.

The minister added that this step enhances the chances of a positive response to the requests made by the Soviet airline AEROFLOT and the Soviet news agency NOVOSTI to operate in Chile.

Errazuriz said that Radio Moscow's decision was realistic because it is futile to use propaganda to distort reality and to export communism to Chile and the world at large. He stated that the Soviet decision is favorable because up to now there had been no proof that perestroyka and the changes implemented by the current Soviet Government applied to Latin America as well.

Interior Minister Addresses Nation on Economy

PY0102165890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Caceres said last night that the next government will face the great challenge of inheriting Latin America's most dynamic and soundest economy.

The interior minister addressed the nation to report on the development and the status of the national economy, which is sound and flourishing.

Following the instructions of President Pinochet, Caceres denied the remarks made within some sectors which seek to cast doubts on Chile's economic status and prospects.

Caceres emphasized that, unlike most Latin American nations, the country will emerge favorably from this period with a per-capita domestic product 10 percent above that of 1980.

The minister also mentioned the spectacular achievements in the struggle against extreme poverty, malnutrition, and infant mortality. In addition, he remarked on the low unemployment rate, curbed inflation, substantial international reserves, and the decreasing foreign debt.

Caceres said the country will continue to progress if clear economic rules are maintained and if domestic and foreign investment rates are favorable.

[Begin Caceres recording] How different the current economic situation is from the one traditionally exhibited at the end of past administrations.

We Chileans do not forget that the transfer of government in the recent past was invariably accompanied by unsuccessful economic experiments, reduced investment, disorientation, unbridled inflation, and faltering economies.

In our country, the foundation of economic strategy did not even become an issue in the past elections. The outcome of the recent elections has not changed the behavior of the economic circle, which continues to support the current strategy in view of its noteworthy success.

This attitude alone is the best evidence that we are delivering a sound economy abounding in opportunities. [end recording]

The interior minister said that over the past few days officials of the next government have said they would inherit a restricted economy with a limited fiscal budget. He added that this is not the case because the programs budgeted for mid-1989, before the general elections, reflect top levels that are consistent with a sound and dynamic economy.

Caceres said that if the promises made during the political campaign were exaggerated, the leaders of this [democratic transition] process will have to adjust these promises with realistic arguments; arguments that can in no way damage the record of the military government.

[Begin Caceres recording] The great challenge for the next government is that it will inherit Latin America's most dynamic and soundest economy.

Thus, more than showing signs of concern about the status of the economy, the new government should recognize the solid position of the economy and should assume the huge responsibility that this involves, that is, to continue leading it to new levels of progress.

The government of President Pinochet and those of us who have cooperated with it are certain the period that will end soon has been one of the most successful, honorable, and hopeful in our history. [end recording]

Minister Caceres said that the Armed Forces and the Carabineros have complied with the historic commitment of restoring democracy and putting the economy on a sound footing just as they have given us independence or victory in the past.

Valenzuela Appointed New Director of Gendarmerie

PY0202004090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During a meeting at La Moneda between the president of the Republic and his cabinet, the council discussed the massive escape of political prisoners, in view of which the authorities adopted the measures necessary to capture the subversives.

Colonel Christian Labbe, minister secretary general of government, has also reported that a new National Gendarmerie director has been appointed. The new director will be Army Brigadier Joaquin Valenzuela.

Human Rights Leader Castillo on UN Decision

PY0102182490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Report by Veronica Rubio]

[Text] Jaime Castillo Velasco, the president of the so-called Chilean Human Rights Commission, has expressed his disagreement over a UN decision to remove our country from the UN agenda. He said that UN observer Fernando Volio should continue his task until the inauguration of the next government.

Castillo made this remark after holding a long meeting with President-elect Patricio Aylwin.

[Begin Castillo recording] The Chilean Human Rights Commission has asked observer Volio to complete his task, to carry out his mandate, and, of course, to assess the situation (?prevailing) in the country until the inauguration of the new government. [end recording]

Castillo Velasco has described as illegal the decision by the military courts to acquit 17 cases involving missing detainees.

Regarding the escape of political prisoners from the public penitentiary, the president of the Human Rights Commission pointed out that this is an extremely serious event in view of the possible political, administrative, and legal impact. He added that the Human Rights Commission will ask the authorities for humanitarian treatment of the fugitives and their families so there will not be any excessively strong reprisals against them.

Colombia

Bush Announcement Opens Way for Garcia at Summit

PA0102170590 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1630 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 1 Feb (DPA)—The announcement by U.S. President George Bush that some of the troops that invaded Panama last December will soon be withdrawn, will permit Peruvian President Alan Garcia to attend the antidrug summit scheduled for 15 February in the Colombian Caribbean city of Cartagena de Indias, Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox stated today.

According to the Peruvian foreign minister, Bush's decision "certainly has removed the principle obstacle" which did not permit the attendance of Garcia in the crucial meeting, which will define effective antidrug strategies.

The drug summit will be attended by Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, and Peruvian President Alan Garcia, who will discuss with President Bush formulas to fight the production, processing, and consumption of cocaine.

Larco Cox, in a telephone call with the Colombian Caracol radio station from Lima, said that the three Andean countries have established a joint position to be announced to Bush, for the purpose of achieving an integrated antidrug struggle.

Local media have begun to announce as fact that President Garcia will attend the summit, not only because of the White House announcement of the troop withdrawal

in Panama, but also because Barco Vargas has spoken to Garcia on the telephone in an effort to persuade him to attend the drug sumdmit.

Garcia, who adopted a more belligerent stand against Washington after the invasion of the isthmus, has reiterated that he will not sit at the same table with anyone (Bush) "who has trampled on Latin America."

Londono Says Cartagena Ready for Presidents

PA0102150090 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister Julio Londono by Antonio Jose Caballeros during visit by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo to Colombia-Venezuela border region; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Londono] This [visit to the border region] is a result of the kind of relations that now exist between Colombia and Venezuela. The neighborhood commissions that exist in the two countries have had very favorable results for border development and integration on both sides of the border.

The delegates have been working very capably on their tasks.

The foreign ministers of the two countries will tour the area from Lake Cosinetas to the Amazon region to talk with the people of the region, to gain field knowledge of the problems endured on both sides of the border, to deliver a message of friendship, and to reveal the advances in cooperation that the two governments are making toward integration and economic development.

[Caballeros] Mr. Minister, there have been reports about problems involving the arrival of U.S. President George Bush at the Cartagena summit. What are these U.S. media reports on the 15 February summit?

[Londono] You know that special delegates from each country have carefully analyzed not only the security aspects, but also the administrative aspects of the Cartagena meeting of chiefs of state. All the delegates agree that the conditions meet all requirements for holding a meeting of this nature.

I believe that some U.S. news organs wish to create an atmosphere for this visit that would make it seem like a visit to the Russian front in 1940.

It is evident that the situation here is different and Cartagena will welcome all the visiting chiefs of state with traditional cordiality and love, because Cartagena is the door to Colombia.

[Caballeros] What is the agenda?

[Londono] Delegations from all the countries involved are analyzing a draft of the agenda to be discussed by the chiefs of state. The delegations, of course, will be proposing subjects they find suitable for discussion. They are working on a general draft that could serve as a framework for the meeting.

Government Says Pact With M-19 To Be Honored

PA0102143190 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacion in Spanish 1211 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The government has reiterated that it will be totally impartial during the upcoming electoral process in Colombia, and it has expressed its resolve to complete the pacification process with M-19 [19 April Movement] so that its members can return to civilian and political life. These remarks were made by Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds following a meeting last night with President Virgilio Barco and Liberal Party President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, during which the subjects of national conciliation and the preelectoral political situation were discussed.

In response to three liberal presidential hopefuls who have accused the government of bias in the selection of the party's sole nominee, Lemos said the accusations are unfounded and only seek to create divisions within the liberal party. He added that the government demonstrated its impartiality by freezing the payrolls of all the governors' offices, mayoralties, and police stations to prevent bureaucratic movements during the elections and thereby guarantee the election's honesty.

Lemos also insisted that the executive branch is determined to honor all the agreements it has made with M-19, despite the difficulties resulting from its failure to implement the special peace subdivisions because the constitutional reform bill was rejected in congress.

Lemos Urges Peace Commitment

PA0202030990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0213 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 1 Feb (EFE)—Colombian Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds asked the political parties today to commit themselves so the peace process with the 19 April Movement [M-19] will have a happy ending.

"The political parties should commit themselves to the peace process in a specific and nonabstract manner, and should demand the demobilization and disarmament of the M-19," Lemos Simmonds urged during a radio and television speech broadcast to the entire nation.

During his speech, the government minister summarized the peace process that has been followed with the M-19 since January 1989, and he pointed out that following long work sessions the political parties themselves "had foiled some of the agreements."

Lemos Simmonds referred to the "work roundtables," that is, the dialogues held last year between M-19

spokesmen, political parties, production groups, government representatives, and the church.

As a result of these dialogues, an agreement was reached on some political, social, and economic reforms that the guerrillas felt should be implemented in the country.

Following the "work roundtables," the Colombian Congress shelved part of these agreements in December, including the special electoral districts that would allow the M-19 to win seats in Congress, and this hindered the reconciliation process.

"No one can say that the government went too far or that it was all a vain illusion," Minister Lemos Simmonds said, insisting that the parties have the duty to take the peace process to a "happy ending" so that it will culminate with the objectives that have been outlined.

The government minister said that "direct talks" are being held with the M-19 to overcome the obstacles" that resulted from the "fall" of the constitutional amendments.

He also said the government will discuss several aspects of the peace process with top M-19 leaders Carlos Pizarro and Antonio Navarro Wolff, but they will not discuss the special electoral districts.

Pizarro and Navarro Wolff have been "visiting" in Bogota since last week, and met today with Cardinal Msgr Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, archbishop of Medellin, who reiterated the "spiritual guidance" of the church in the process.

Carlos Pizarro pointed out that the M-19 "will run on its own," with its own list of candidates, in the forthcoming 11 March legislative elections, inasmuch as it is impossible to join coalitions with the other parties.

"We will run alone in the elections so the country will see what we want," said Carlos Pizarro, who added that the M-19 "will try by all means to save the peace process."

M-19, a nationalist-type guerrilla group, has been waging an armed struggle for 16 years. It is the only one of the six rebel groups in Colombia to hold talks and to have signed agreements, although it has not signed a decisive agreement on reconciliation with the government of Colombian President Virgilio Barco.

Government Implements Financial Control Measures

PA0202013990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2353 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 31 Jan (DPA)—The Colombian Government issued a decree on 31 January to exert control over stockholders of financial institutions to prevent the sale of financial institutions for "money of doubtful origin."

The measure, ordered by the banking superintendent, affects all banks, savings and housing funds; and insurance, reinsurance, and commercial finance companies in an attempt to avoid the presence of "figureheads," namely, people whose names are used by others who do not want to be identified.

It was learned that any person taking steps to buy 10 percent or more stock in financial institutions will have to prove before the authorities the origins of the money that will be used to consummate the transaction.

In this way, the government will not allow investors who defrauded depositors during the "financial collapse" of the early 1980's to return to their activities.

Police Reject Drug Traffickers' Accusations

PA0102201890 Paris AFP in Spanish 0607 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 30 Jan 90 (AFP)—The Colombian police rejected today the accusations leveled by the clandestine group, the Extraditables, the armed branch of the drug traffickers, against one of its specialized corps. The government said the Attorney General's Office would conduct an investigation.

The Extraditables issued a communique a few hours ago stating that the elite Medellin Police Corps and its Commander, Major Lisandro Junco, are responsible for a large number kidnappings of people who are apparently linked with the drug cartel.

The organization proved its accusations by providing a description of several vehicles reportedly used by the secret agents, the addresses at which the kidnappings took place, and the telephone numbers.

"If there is a judge who endorses those accusations, let him investigate and ascertain which Police Force member is responsible but, as an institution, we canot become a source of dialogue for what the drug cartels say," it was stated by assistant police director General Carlos Arturo Casadiego. "What credibility can those people have?" he asked, adding that if the Extraditables really wanted to abide by the peace plan, they should turn themselves in to the appropriate authorities and pay for their crimes.

On the other hand, Government Minister Carlos Lemos said it is the responsibility of the Attorney General's Office to investigate accusations of the drug mafia members.

"When any kind of accusation is made, such as in this case, the Attorney General immediately takes action and orders an investigation. This way the accused person may be removed from his post if he is found guilty because the preliminary work has been done," the minister said.

"This is fundamental to the institutional life of the Republic because those who are in charge of enforcing the law must be honest people," the minister added.

"Therefore any accusation about the alleged misconduct of people linked with administration, the Armed Forces,

or the Security Corps must be investigated, and that is what is being done now," Lemos concluded.

Minister Denies Bombing of FARC Headquarters

PA0102193890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] On 31 January, the media reported the bombing of camps near Casa Verde, the headquarters of the general secretariat of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], in Meta Department. We went there, and discovered that, although military operations are under way, there have been no bombings or anything of the kind.

General Jaime Humberto Neyra, commander of the 4th Army Division based in Villavicencio, said today that at no time have his troops bombed the area where FARC leaders Jacobo Arenas and Tirofijo [nom de guerre of Manuel Marulanda Velez] are based, because although the troops are indeed fighting against FARC, the confrontations are occurring some distance from the so-called Casa Verde.

[Begin Neyra recording] At some times the distance might be shorter, but the fact is that the topographical conditions of the region keep the two areas completely separate. It is almost impossible to travel by land from our present site, which is where the FARC'S 26th Squad was located, to the area of La Uribe, where the FARC camps are located. [end recording]

The general denied reports that Army troops had razed two camps. We found only two hideouts, he said. General Neyra was unable to go to the area today because of bad weather.

At this time, the Army is still pursuing a group of some 150 guerrillas of the 26th Squad, armed with machine guns and rifles, who killed 5 soldiers and wounded others in an ambush on 28 January in the town of La Guajira, in the mountainous area of Mesetas in southern Meta Department. It takes 5 days by road and some 2 or 3 more days by trail to get to the area.

Quintin Lame Addresses Letter to 'Notables'

PA0102200990 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Jan 90 p 7-A

[Text] The pro-Indian guerrilla movement Quintin Lame announced its peace proposal on 23 January. The organization decreed a unilateral cease-fire in mid-1989.

The peace initiative was presented in a letter sent to "The Notables," which is formed by expresidents Julio Cesar Turbay, Misael Pastrana, and Alfonso Lopez, and also Patriotic Unity [UP] president Diego Montana Cuellar and Monsignor Mario Revollo Bravo.

The Quintin Lame movement, which operates in Cauca Department, began a dialogue with the government last year inasmuch as it is a member of the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board.

In the document, the guerrillas state that the dialogue has not failed and that a call for a constituent assembly is urgent.

"The specific proposal that some of the guerrilla groups presented for a constituent assembly is a workable mechanism for resolving the crisis."

"The climate for dialogue has been darkened by the lack of true willingness for change on the part of the parties and the government, the continuation and aggravation of the dirty war, the continuation of military operations by both sides, and disregard for the civilian population and international agreements."

The letter added that the proposed assembly must define the state's structure and operation, the fundamental economic and social rights of individuals and society, and the way society will protect these rights.

The rebels' letter finally said that they appreciate the efforts of "the Notables" because an atmosphere against violence is being created.

4th Army Brigade Wages War on Paid Assassins

PA0102194690 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Jan 90 p 8-A

[Text] Five hundred hired killers, aged 12 to 25, make up the fearful breeding ground of assassins who have taken over Medellin.

Spread throughout 150 small gangs, whose activities are centered in 14 city neighborhoods, the assassins are organized into a heirarchy with Pablo Escobar Gaviria at the top.

Thanks to military intelligence sources, EL TIEMPO acquired on 31 January a detailed description of the criminal structure operating in Medellin. This information became available after an investigation conducted by 4th Brigade Commander General Harold Bedoya Pizarro.

The gangs include powerful criminal organizations, such as the successors to "Los Priscos," linked to the assassinations of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla and EL ESPECTADOR director Guillermo Cano, among others.

There are others, such as "Los Tesos," "Los Nachos," "Los Rockeros," "Los Monjes," and "Los Magnificos."

There are also a hundred more organizations working for the Medellin Cartel.

According to the authorities, these groups were involved in many of the 4,015 crimes which were perpetrated in Medellin in 1989 and also in a large number of the 17,350 violent deaths in the decade of the 80's in this city.

Now, however, this powerful criminal network is about to collapse thanks to the Genesis Plan carried out by the men of the 4th Army Brigade headquartered at Medellin.

Over the past 20 years, this military garrison has dismantled 58 bands of paid assassins and handed over to the courts 103 young killers, all of them with lengthy criminal records.

This has been disclosed by General Bedoya in a report in which he gives complete information on the relentless war that his men have been waging against the Medellin Cartel's criminal network.

According to the 4th Brigade's investigations, criminals John Jairo Velasquez Vasquez—one of the first involved in the murder of Prosecutor Carlos Mauro Hoyos—Alfredo Vasquez, Johnny Rivera Acosta, and Ramon Castro Espinel are the top leaders of the 58 bands of assassins. These leaders answer directly to Escobar, sponsor and top chief of the Medellin paid killers.

The most dramatic aspect of this situation is the fact that most of the members of these bands are nearly children who, although they are not yet 17 years old, have already registered their names in crime and spread terror in no less than 15 neighborhoods of the Antioquia capital.

The bands are headquartered in popular neighborhoods of Medellin such as Aranjuez, Castilla, Zamora, Manrique, Santa Cruz, La Isla, and Villa Socorro and in sectors such as Bello, La Estrella, and Envigado. According to the Brigade report, there are 30 such groups in Aranjuez alone.

The Genesis Plan, EL TIEMPO learned, will continue to combat paid crime, terrorism, and drug trafficking, despite the recent request by the "Extraditables" for protection so they can abide by the law.

Gen Bedoya's report says that the climate in the neighborhoods where the military presence has increased is already different. The bands had spread terror in popular neighborhoods and perpetrated all types of crimes from extortion in stores and similar places, to murder.

The people have gladly welcomed the 4th Brigade's work. But, as some sources said, no one knows what will happen when those who have been detained are turned over to the courts. Then, as has happened at other times, perhaps they will recover their freedom through bribery, intimidation, and the people's fear of reporting them.

[The item includes a chart showing the names of the Medellin neighborhoods, those of the 30 bands operating in Aranjuez alone, and those of the 10 bands operating in Bello; all of them ultimately answering to Pablo Escobar Gaviria, through his deputies]

Clashes, Casualties Reported in Cesar Department

PA0102151890 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Valledupar—The public order situation in Cesar Department is continuing to deteriorate with two guerrilla raids occurring in the past 48 hours, resulting in five dead, several wounded, and the kidnapping of an alderman.

The worst crime was perpetrated last evening in Curumani Municipality, where a police vehicle was blown up, killing Second Police District Commander Major German Castro Diaz, his wife, Maria Josefina Baez, and a police agent named Bastidas.

The actions were attributed to the self-styled Army of National Liberation, ELN. The raid occurred barely 24 hours after a similar action was carried out in Agua Chica Municipality, where subversives of the same guerrilla organization attacked the local Agrarian Board branch and clashed with public forces. The clash resulted in the death of a criminal and a public force member.

Furthermore, Social Conservative Party Alderman Anibal Reyes Sanchez was kidnapped in Agua Chica Municipality, and his whereabouts are still unknown.

The situation has compelled police and military authorities to increase their operations throughout the region in an effort to normalize activities on every front.

More on Murder of Official, Wife

PA0202025090 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0010 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] A very bloody incident has occurred in Curumani, Cesar Department. The police commander, his wife, and their driver were all murdered at the same time as a result of a bomb and machine gun fire.

The incident took place less than 1 km from the police garrison in Curumani. Here are the details provided by Lieutenant Colonel Edgar Vargas Rodriguez:

[Begin Vargas Rodriguez recording] At approximately 2040, as Major Castro, commander of the 2d District, was riding in a police vehicle accompanied by several agents and his wife, and when the car was only some 800 meters from the police garrison, a bomb was activated by a subversive group and the vehicle was simultaneously sprayed with machine-gun fire. To top off their criminal and savage action, Molotov cocktails were hurled at the car. [end recording]

As a result of this attack, Col. [as heard] Castro Diaz, his wife Miriam Arevalo de Castro, and Police Agent William Cordoba Bastidas from Pasto died on the spot.

A family that was traveling from Aguachica to the coast in a Renault 4 car happened to be directly behind the

patrol car. As a result of the incident, a young girl by the name of Denise Esperanza Perez was killed and Jose Luis Torres was wounded.

The bodies of Col Castro and his wife were taken to the Police Command in Valledupar to receive posthumous honors and then transferred to the capital in the afternoon. They are survived by three small children: Ricardo, German, and Carolina.

ELN Attacks Town; 2 Casualties Reported

PA0102201190 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Report by Jaime Fernando Restrepo]

[Text] Some 100 guerrillas of the group known as the Army of National Liberation [ELN] have attacked the town of Villa Sucre, in Arboledas Corregimiento in Norte de Santander Department in the eastern part of the country. One policeman was killed in the action and another was wounded. At this time, police units and troops from the Maza Battalion are pursuing the subversive column.

About 150 guerrillas attacked the town's police station. At approximately 2230 last night, the subversive column began the attack which was repelled by 10 policemen and one junior officer.

After 6 hours of fighting, the rebels fled toward the mountains in the area. The attack was staged with rockets, grenades, and long-range rifles.

The police have reported that policeman Jaime Rojas, who was wounded in the confrontation, has been transferred to Cucuta.

New 'Terrorist' Group To 'Clean Up' Soccer

PA0202023690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0023 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] A new terrorist group with the slogan Let us clean up Colombian soccer has sent communiques to the media claiming responsibility for the attack on the president of the Los Millonarios Sports Club. The group also vowed there will not be a professional championship as long as certain undesirable persons do not resign from the teams.

The group calls itself LIFUCO, Let Us Clean Up Colombian Soccer [Limpieza del Futbol Colombiano], and claims credit for several criminal actions. According to the communique, LIFUCO is directed by soccer fans who bet on some games and were robbed of millions of pesos. The group says it has been trying to clean up the soccer games for some time now. The group claims credit for the deaths of the president of the Medellin Independent Sports Club, Pablo Correa, and of referee Alvaro Ortega, among other crimes.

The group also says it murdered two of the five persons found dead on 31 January in northeastern Bogota because they failed in their attempt to murder German Gomez, president of the Los Millonarios Club. The group also advised it is against the drug cartels, and it will not allow the soccer championship to get under way as long as the teams have anything to do with the cartels. This strange organization threatened sports club leaders, soccer players, and journalists.

[Begin Deputy Director of National Police Carlos Arturo Casadiego recording] We had no knowledge about this, but we did know there were some underground activities going on among soccer fans, such as some persons who pose as bettors and deal with large quantities of money. They are apparently responsible for the situation prevailing now in Colombian soccer. [end recording]

Paraguay

Military Leaders Comment on Coup Anniversary

PY0102113190

[Editorial Report] Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish in the 31 January edition publishes on page 11 under the headline "We Never Discuss Parties" a 700-word interview with Brigade General Lino Cesar Oviedo, commander of the First Cavalry Division, who said: "In the barracks we never discuss race, skin color, lineage, or political parties. In the barracks we work humbly, without egoism, without discriminating flags or ideologies." Asked about what the Cavalry Division was doing at this time last year, Gen Oviedo said: "We were getting ready to fight for democratic openness in the country." Gen Oviedo also commented on training in the barracks which teaches conscripts "To be useful citizens."

On the same day and page, the daily publishes a 300-word interview with Division General Ramon Humberto Garcete, commander of the First Army Corps. Gen Garcete refers to the 2-3 February coup as the operation that "liberated Paraguay to allow the people to live as brothers and be frank with each other, and that established the reign of love, peace, and social justice in the country." He says that these are President Rodriguez' yearnings for the country, and concludes by saying: "This is the moment for all of us to help make Paraguay the free, important, and happy nation we all long for."

A 150-word article on the same page refers to Colonel DEM [Graduate of the Staff School] Santiago Zaracho's speech at the dedication of new facilities at the cavalry headquarters in Asuncion. Zaracho assures his audience that: "We will continue to work to ensure the security of the fatherland, and to allow the superior government to calmly perform its tasks."

The last article on the page is a 440-word interview with Rear Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit, Navy commander in chief, who believes that "the February coup is fully justified because thanks to it, Paraguay is living in freedom and democracy." Asked to appraise the situation on the first anniversary of the coup, Gonzalez Petit says that it is not up to him, but rather the press to appraise the situation. He adds that in observing his Navy personnel he has learned that "democracy, which could not have been achieved in any other way, is improving very quickly."